

No 61,734

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Rebirth of a nation
Out of the ashes of the
Civil War and Franco's
rule, culture is beginning
to flower again in Spain
The quick...
Wednesday Page meets a
jet-setting fast lady
(below)



...and the dead
Bernard Levin on the
dignity due to ancient
bones
Splice...
A taxing problem: the
cost of matrimony
...the mainbrace
David Miller on the
Yachtsman of the Year

Revenue suspends 400 staff

The Island Revenue last night suspended without pay almost 400 staff in tax offices in the West Midlands in the dispute over the computerization of PAYE. The union is going to the High Court tomorrow to try to restrain the revenue from suspending staff who refuse to use the computers

Unrest grows, page 4

EEC warning

Mr Poul Dalsager, the Agriculture Commissioner, said in Brussels that the EEC faced bankruptcy before the summer unless "major surgery" was applied to the common agricultural policy

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Benn prediction

One of Mr Wedgwood Benn's key supporters in Chesterfield Labour Party predicts that the voting in next Sunday's election of a candidate for the by-election in March will be very close

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US aide lied

President Reagan's information director, Mr Charles Wick, has apologized for secretly recording telephone conversations and admitted that he lied

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Nuclear pact

Britain will sign a deal today with France, Italy, West Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands, committing it to joint development of fast breeder reactor technology

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Royal tumble

It was the first day of their skiing holiday in Liechtenstein yesterday for the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Princess took a fall

Back page

Architect dies

Sir Frederick Gibberd, whose designs included the Liverpool Roman Catholic Cathedral, died yesterday aged 76

Obituary, page 12

Leader page 11
Letters: On the economy, from Lord Kaldor; Welsh's plan of station, from Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos; and others; archives, from Dr C J Currie
Leading articles: Jordan Parliament; Broadcasting technology; Acid rain
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Sir Alfred Sherman analyses the Kissinger report on Central America; Pretoria's as-battle tactics in Angola; Robin Cook MP on a minus benefit; Spectrum; Jan Morris in Peking; Fashion; spinning a yarn
Computer Horizons, pages 14-15
The ready-to-wear computerized suit, plus more details of the National Computer Competition
Obituary, page 12
Sir Frederick Gibberd, Mr Ronald Lewin

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Fowler cash boost for poorer health regions

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Nine English regions of the National Health Service will have growth in real terms ranging from 0.8 per cent on Merseyside to 1.9 per cent in East Anglia, in the coming financial year.

But the four Thames regions, which cover the South-east from Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex to the south coast, face an effective spending freeze under government plans announced yesterday.

No stated targets have been set for efficiency savings in 1984-85, nor for manpower after the Government's cut of almost 5,000 health service jobs last autumn. But health ministers made it clear yesterday that they will expect efficiency savings of at least 0.5 per cent from districts as part of a "substantial and sustained cost improvement programme".

Any bids for extra jobs will have to be justified in detail. Health authorities will have to show that they will improve services to patients and that the new staff cannot be off-set by cutting jobs elsewhere, a policy that in practice is likely to mean little or no growth in health service manpower.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday that he would have no hesitation in rejecting plans that did not meet these requirements.

Under the Government's spending plans, an extra £400m is to be spent on hospital and community service. That is about 1 per cent in real terms or £83m, after allowing for a 5 per cent rise in prices and 3 per cent in wages, assumptions one health authority yesterday branded as "optimistic".

Capital spending is to rise by £50m or 7 per cent.

The increase will broadly match the 1 per cent a year needed to cope with the growing number of elderly but money to develop priority services for the mentally ill and handicapped and to keep pace with medical advance will all have to come from savings in existing services.

Regional Health Authority	Growth (£1m)	% Gr in real terms
Northern	8	1.4
Yorkshire	12	1.3
Trent	6	1.9
East Anglian	0	0.0
North-west Thames	0	0.0
North-east Thames	0	0.0
South-east Thames	0	0.0
South-west Thames	0	0.0
West Midlands	9	1.7
Oxford	6	1.8
South-western	12	1.4
West Midlands	12	1.4
Mersey	4	0.8
North-western	10	1.3
TOTAL	83	1.0

*After allowing for 5% rise in prices and 3% pay

The Thames regions, which will receive extra cash to cover the Government's assumptions on pay and prices, but no real growth, will face the greatest difficulties, having to make further cuts and savings in their acute hospital services to meet growing demands from the elderly and to develop their priority services.

The biggest growth goes to regions such as East Anglia, Wessex and Oxford, which have growing populations, and to the traditionally "under funded" regions.

But ministers have not redistributed money from the

Thames regions to other parts of the country as vigorously as they might. Under long-term government plans, the Thames authorities could have expected cuts in real terms of between 0.3 per cent and 0.5 per cent, rather than a standstill. With growing protests over the effects of ward and bed closures, ministers have accepted that they are under financial pressure and have slightly slowed the rate of redistribution.

Announcing the allocations, Mr Norman Fowler, said the 1 per cent growth plus the "cost improvement programmes" would release resources for new developments. "Health authorities should be able to take up new medical advances and continue to improve, for instance, services for the mentally ill and handicapped and for renal failure and hip replacement."

Several of the regions said the growth figures were much as expected, and were pleasantly surprised (Staff Reporters write). The response, region by region was:

Northern: Mr Robert Hunt, the treasurer, said it had expected to get just over 1 per cent growth and the 1.4 per cent actually awarded will mean about £2m more than anticipated.

"It will give us a chance to do slightly more than we had planned to. It should give us spare capacity to develop non-acute services for the mentally ill, mentally handicapped and the aged."

Continued on back page, col 6

Thatcher stands firm against Tory council rate rebels

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Conservative councillors opposing the Government's "rate-capping" plans failed to win concessions from the Prime Minister last night.

Mr John Lovell, leader of the Conservative-dominated Association of County Councils, said before meeting Mrs Margaret Thatcher that the association wanted MPs to vote against the plans.

When he emerged he quickly scrapped a prepared statement opposing rate-capping and refused to discuss the meeting. Mr Roger Parker-Jervis, leader of Buckinghamshire County Council, one of the most determined opponents of rate-capping, repeated, "Family meeting," several times and refused to comment further.

Mrs Thatcher, who was not left isolated among her critics at yesterday's meeting. The guest list had been vetted by ministers at the Department of the Environment, who will use the rate-capping powers if Parliament accepts them, and the 13 invited councillors included strong supporters of the Rates Bill as well as opponents.

Complaints that rate-capping would enable ministers to usurp the powers of local government came mainly from the shires. Support for the Bill often comes from Conservatives in minority opposition to high-spending Labour councillors.

Two such Conservatives, who were invited to yesterday's meeting, were Lady Porter, leader of Westminster City Council, and Mr Irvine Patrick, leader of the Conservative group on South Yorkshire County Council.

Mr Patrick would not comment on the meeting but said: "I think a Bill like this is the only salvation for an area like South Yorkshire."

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday joined other senior ministers who are now putting the case for the Bill (Our Political Editor writes).

He echoed the assertion by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, on Friday that high rates destroyed jobs.

Mr Lawson denied accusations that the Government's proposals represented an

attack on local democracy, and asked if it could be seriously suggested that the Government should be oblivious to the economic effect of crushing levels of local taxation.

Mr Lawson, in a message to the management committees of his Blaby constituency association, said the rate-capping proposals were rooted in two legitimate concerns of central government - the overall levels of taxation and public spending.

"There is no essential difference between rates and taxes," he said. "They both preempt resources... they dry up funds that could be used to boost investment and jobs."

He said "responsible" authorities had nothing to fear from proposals designed to protect the ratepayer from the "profiteers' ones."

Essex County Council, one of the conservative-controlled councils which in the past has kept its spending in line with government wishes, seems likely to exceed its government target during the coming financial year (Davis Cross writes).

If the expected level of expenditure remains unchanged when next year's budget is approved at the end of next month, the council will incur a penalty of £7.3m.

Mr Brittan: View on rates echoed by Chancellor.

Continued on back page, col 6

Benefit cuts under review

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Social security ministers are to reconsider the shape of the government's planned £230m cut in housing benefits after criticism of the proposals from the Social Security Advisory Committee and opposition from Conservative backbenchers.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, is committed to the £230m cut, announced as part of the Chancellor's autumn package. He believes the money is best saved there rather than from

other parts of the social security system.

Ministers are, however, to examine the package to see if some of the growing criticism at the impact of the cuts can be answered.

Conservative backbenchers have particularly criticized its effects on pensioners, some of whom will lose between £4 and £5 a week, and more than 1,250,000 of whom will suffer some loss.

The committee has also been against the decision not to pay

benefit if it is less than £1 for rent and 50p for rates, saying such a rule would go beyond administrative convenience, amounting to more than two weeks worth of standard retirement pension for someone who loses the whole amount.

The committee has also argued that despite ministers' claims that only the better off would be affected, about 38,000 families below the needs allowance of £43.05 a week for a single person and £63.50 a week for couples will lose up to 99p a week.

Republicans tell Reagan to rethink budget

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan is being urged by senior advisers to reconsider his budget for fiscal 1985, which he has sent to Congress by the end of this month.

Preliminary figures, circulated on Capitol Hill last week, provoked angry reactions from Republicans as well as Democratic congressmen.

A group of senior Republicans led by Mr Robert Michel, the House minority leader, and Senators Robert Dole and Pete Domenici, chairmen of the Senate finance and budget committees respectively, has told the President that his budget proposals would enjoy the support of about 50

Republican congressmen at most.

They said that an overwhelming majority of Republicans fear that the President's plans for an additional \$8bn (£5.7bn) cut in social programmes, while at the same time raising defence spending by a further 13 per cent, would have a seriously adverse effect on public opinion and could lose both the President and Republican candidates vital votes in the November elections.

They pointed out that the Democrats have already made clear their intention to make the budget, and in particular the

continuing huge deficits, one of the main themes of their election campaign.

According to preliminary figures from the Office of Management and Budget, the fiscal 1985 deficit will amount to between \$185bn and \$197bn if the President goes ahead with his existing budget plan.

The same forecasts show that the deficit would still be in the region of \$200bn by the time President Reagan ended his expected second term in 1988.

The pressure which is now being brought to bear on the President to amend his plans

means he will have to face some unpleasant choices.

He will either have to renege on the planned cuts in domestic spending, reduce the proposed increase in defence spending, agree to an increase in taxes, or simply prepare himself to live with enormous deficit projections.

It has become clear that the budget figures were deliberately leaked on Capitol Hill last week to drum up the sort of congressional opposition now generated. This, it is hoped, will strengthen the hand of those within the Administration who are urging the President to come up with revised figures.

Woman, 23, accused of being 'mole'

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

A young woman clerk at the Foreign Office was yesterday charged under the Official Secrets Act with sending to *The Guardian* a copy of a confidential government memorandum on the arrival of cruise missiles in Britain.

Scotland Yard said Sarah Caroline Tisdall, aged 23, of south London, will appear at Bow Street magistrate's court this morning.

She is accused that "you being a person holding office under Her Majesty did on or after October 21, 1983, within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court communicate classified information entrusted to you to another person to whom you were not authorized to communicate such information contrary to Section Two of the Official Secrets Act, 1911."

According to the Diplomatic Service List Miss Tisdall joined the Foreign Office in July, 1980. She is Grade 10.

Miners' union suspends rebellious strikers

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Miners' leaders last night closed ranks in support of their national overtime ban, now in its eleventh week, and disciplined rebel winding engineers in Staffordshire who yesterday staged a one-day strike against union strategy.

More than 40 men who wind the cages in pits near Stoke-on-Trent have been suspended from the National Union of Mineworkers until a month after the present industrial action ends. But the revolt against the overtime ban has now spread to other moderate coalfields in Durham, Cumbria and Leicestershire, and threatens to split the union.

The union's national executive meets in Sheffield in two days' time to determine its next step in the drawn-out pay dispute. Right-wing area leaders are to press for a secret pithead ballot on the National Coal Board's "final" 5.2 per cent pay offer and on continuation of the limited sanctions, already in force which have cost the men more than £30m in lost wages.

But Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the union, last night accused Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the GMB Board, of "virtually destroying industrial relations" within the industry and argued that the overtime ban should force the board back to the negotiating table.

The winding engineers' action has brought to a head a long-simmering hostility among the better-paid miners, who have been losing up to £100 a week through the industrial action in support of a claim for "substantial" wage rises for 190,000 pitmen.

Mr Trevor Bell, secretary of the union's white-collar group yesterday promised in a radio interview to support any proposals for a ballot at the Sheffield meeting.

Mrs Christine Postill, aged 37, whose husband works at Woolley pit, near Barnsley, plans to sue Mr Scargill for lost wages caused by the overtime ban. Go-ahead for pit, page 3

French soldier killed in Beirut fighting

Beirut (Reuters) - One French paratrooper was killed and another wounded when gunmen fired a rocket-propelled grenade and automatic weapons at an observation post of the French military headquarters in Beirut.

Colonel Philippe de Longueval said the attack was so swift the paratroops did not have time to return fire. Beirut radio had earlier reported that a bomb had exploded near the French headquarters. It said the second explosion was caused by a dynamite hurled at a pharmacy in Muslim west Beirut. Howe hospital, page 6

Shares at record as pound slumps

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Derek Pain

Shares surged to a record on the Stock Exchange yesterday with the FT 30 share index, the market's main indicator, closing at 290 points exactly.

But, since again starting a steady climb to a strong US dollar on the foreign exchange market. At one time it fell to \$1.3910 - the first time it has slipped below \$1.40 - before recovering to \$1.4050.

Shares, encouraged by growing optimism about the British economy, have been climbing to new highs for a month. The London Stock Exchange City talk that the FT index will break through 1,000 points before the end of the year.

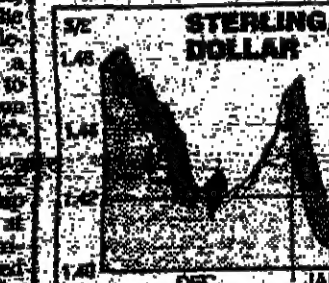
The leading has grown in the world's leading stock markets that the long recession is coming to an end. Recent economic news from the United States has only served to strengthen the optimism.

While the London stock market opened the FT index, based on 30 leading shares ranging from Allied-Lyons to Vickers, jumped 7.6 points to 281.9. One factor behind the gain was share tips in the weekend newspapers.

While the large institutional investors remained on the sidelines the index lost some of its momentum before a late buying flurry, partly inspired by the strong Wall Street opening, drove the index back to 290.

Meanwhile, yesterday, the dollar powered ahead after opening well above its pre-weekend levels on the foreign exchange market. Intervention by the West German central bank and profit-taking stemmed the rise but it still closed well up on the day.

The Government remains firmly against extensive intervention, although the Bank of



England was thought to be steady. Sterling yesterday when the dollar's advance pushed it below \$1.40.

At 10.00 a.m. it touched \$1.3910 and its trade-weighted value fell to 81.4, the lowest since last April. But sterling has been firm against other currencies.

It closed slightly higher against the French franc and German mark and after recovering to close up 20 points down against the dollar at \$1.4050, its trade-weighted value ended unchanged at 81.7.

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SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS SHARE OUR WORLD!

Go-ahead for £400m pit in Vale of Belvoir will create 1,100 jobs

By Andrew Corns

The Government yesterday approved the £400m development of the Asfordby coal mine in the Vale of Belvoir, in Leicestershire, which will create 1,100 jobs by the early 1990s.

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, gave the go-ahead to the project, which is being developed by the National Coal Board (NCB). The mine is situated in the Vale of Belvoir, a coalfield in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. It will produce 2.2 million tonnes of low-cost coal for power stations each year. The project will help to offset the effect of 3,300 job losses at the coal mines that are due to close in the north-east Leicestershire area in the next five years.

The coal board is already working on plans for the development of two other coalfields in the Vale of Belvoir. It was instructed to submit separate applications for the developments after strong objections from conservationists who fear that the projects will destroy an area of scenic beauty.

Yesterday, 1,500 miners were on strike in the north-east Leicestershire area, protesting against the Government's decision to close the mines. The strike is the first in the area since 1974.

There has been a long history of effective cooperation between the management and the miners in the coalfield, he said. "It is this spirit that has given the coal board the confidence to go ahead."

Fortunes await PA's lost shareholders

By Colin Hughes

The national news agency, the Press Association (PA), is launching a national advertising campaign to find four of its shareholders, who could become overnight multi-millionaires.

The shares fell "derelict" when their nineteenth-century owners failed to pass them on to their descendants, and no one knows where to find the descendants who own them.

Unwitting descendants of the four owners and editors who took shares in the PA when it was set up by 120 newspaper proprietors in 1868 are in line for a fortune.

The PA owns 41 per cent of Reuters, the international news agency, which is expected to be floated on the Stock Exchange in the spring at an estimated value of £1,000m. Each 100 shares in the PA could then be worth £1m.

Mr Jack Pugh, financial controller of the PA, said yesterday that letters had been written to the most recent addresses of the people who owned the 1,800 missing shares. "We have never had a reply, partly because we lost track of some of these people about 100 years ago."

"There has never been any special reason for these people to reply before because we have never paid a dividend, but now they stand to make a lot of money."

The owners of the 1,800 missing shares took them out in 1868 in their own names, unlike the majority of the shareholders, who passed them on to their children.

"We have no idea where the heirs to these shares might be," he said.

New maths tests to be developed

By Lucy Hodges

A grant of £154,000 has been awarded to Chelsea College, London University, to develop new mathematics tests similar to the kind advocated by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, in 1976.

The money from the Nuffield Foundation will be used to work out a batch of "assessment tests" for children to do at different levels at their own pace.

The scheme is a joint project between the Centre for Science and Maths Education at Chelsea College, the Inner London Education Authority and the University of London GCE Examination Board.

Called "Graded Assessment in Maths" (GAIM), the aim of the project is to cater for children aged from 11 to 16, of all abilities and to link one of the levels to a GCE O level (grades A to C) or a CSE grade.

Dr Margaret Brown, the project's director, wants the tests to cover a broad range of mathematical skills, including practical and oral ability, problem solving, and investigation.

Graded tests are also being developed in English, science and craft, and design and technology.

Outside London the same thing is being done by the Oxford Delegacy of Local Examinations in conjunction with some local authorities and in the Midlands under the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate.

There was a muted, if not stunned, reaction from Sir Keith's examination boards to the idea of a new test in which the child is given a choice of questions. They pointed out that his idea involved setting up a series of hurdles in each subject and if the aim was to set a minimum standard in each one, that would probably have to be pitched very low.

"They said the logic of Sir Keith's position was the abolition of traditional examinations at the age of 16."



Acid rain

Chesterfield by-election

Benn aide predicts close finish

From Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent, Chesterfield

One of Mr Wedgwood Benn's key supporters in the Chesterfield Derbyshire area headquarters should be campaigning so openly for Mr Benn when the election is held in the March by-election would be extremely close.

Mr Thomas Vallins, a member of the general committee which is to make the selection, said: "I do not dare make a prediction. I am quietly optimistic, but it is going to be very, very close."

Mr Vallins is portrayed by Labour's soft-left and centre-right, both at Westminster and in Chesterfield, as the mechanic who has engineered Mr Benn's Derbyshire debut.

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Long-term acid rain research promised

By John Young

There is evidence of an increase in rainfall acidity in the United Kingdom, but lack of research data precludes any detailed identification of its sources, a report published yesterday suggests. But it calls for more long-term monitoring.

The report, prepared by the Government's Warren Spring Laboratory, in Stevenage, for the Department of the Environment, adopts an extremely cautious attitude to the whole question and makes no attempt to discuss the possible effects of the deposition of pollutants. It has been described as "disappointing" by the Friends of the Earth environmentalist group, which has been in the forefront of the campaign against acid rain.

The report suggests that emissions of sulphur dioxide, mainly from coal and oil-fired power stations, factories, and refineries, are becoming relatively less of a problem than increases of nitrate concentrations.

Both have increased considerably since 1970, but sulphur dioxide emissions, which rose steadily from the middle of the nineteenth century, interrupted only by the depression of the early 1930s, are said to have reached a peak in the mid-1960s and to have declined since 1970.

Although emissions in Europe, excluding the Soviet Union, doubled between 1950 and 1970, the report says, the increase in the United Kingdom, Norway, and Sweden, show big decreases since 1972.

Nitrogen oxides, however, continued to increase at least until 1980, largely due to greater use of oil. Agricultural emissions from fertilizers are not thought to account for more than 5 per cent of the total, and these from motor vehicle exhausts for only about a quarter.

Damage to trees, especially in West German forests, is widespread, possibly due to acid rain and dry deposits of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide, the report says. But a causal link between deposited acidity and forest effects has yet to be demonstrated.

In Britain, the areas receiving the largest inputs of acidity are Cumbria and the west central Highlands and southern uplands of Scotland.

The Government responded to the report yesterday with a commitment to fund further long-term research, but Friends of the Earth described that as "utterly inadequate" and claimed that Britain, which "exported" three-quarters of its sulphur emissions, was in danger of becoming "the dirty man of Europe".

Acid Deposition in the United Kingdom (Warren Spring Laboratory, Stevenage, Essex, SG1 2BX, 210).

Leading article, page 11

Computers to 'talk' in English

A British-researched computer program that enables computers to understand plain English was launched in London yesterday.

Microdata, Information Services, says it has beaten the big companies IBM and ICL with the launch of its Natural Language Program, which is intended to end the need for complex programming to get answers from computers.

The new software package, developed mainly at the company's research centre in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, has been launched six months ahead of schedule and will be available in Britain before the United States.

A company official said that the time taken to write and test programs meant that, although the computer took only a fraction of a second to deal with the problem, businessmen might have to wait as much as a week to get the answers they wanted from a busy computer.

The new program would mean a businessman could ask the computer any question using a desk-top terminal. He said: "We want to make computers friendlier and easier to use."

Mr Alan Bellinger, who headed the development team, said the new software was unique: it enabled the computer to learn the idiosyncrasies of a user's language.

Microdata, part of the American aerospace corporation McDonnell Douglas, says the English Language software is just a step on the way to its eventual goal of producing computers that will be able to hold conversations with people.

Speelman retains chess lead

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent Hastings

With a quick draw in eighteen moves against the Romanian grandmaster Suba, Jonathan Speelman retained the lead at the end of round 11 in the Jace Grandmaster Tournament at the Hastings International Chess Congress.

His chief rival, the Swedish grandmaster Karlsson, adjourned his game against Coom in that round in the somewhat inferior position.

Scores at the end of round eleven: Speelman 7½; Karlsson 6½ and one adjourned; Martin and Mettel 6 and one adjourned; Suba 6; Pincus and Hebdon 5½ and one adjourned; Coom 5 and one adjourned.

Results in round eleven: Short 1; Alburt 0, Alekhine's defence, 36 moves; Gurevich adj against Mettel, OP King's Indian defence, 40; Coom adj Karlsson, Reti opening, 43; Hebdon adj Martin, French defence, 55; Sax adj Pincus, Robatsch defence, 40; Speelman ½ Suba ½, English opening, 18; Karlsson ½ Ivanov ½, Giuoco Piano, 22.

Adjourned games results, round 10: Alburt 0 Speelman 1, 66; Mettel 1 Short 0, 63.

Bigger pages for Sunday colour magazine

The Sunday Times Magazine is to increase its page size by nearly 25 per cent from April 29. That will make it Britain's largest colour magazine.

Mr Arthur Britten, corporate relations director of News International, said: "The decision to increase our size has been taken in order to demonstrate once again the leadership that the Sunday Times Magazine has had in the market place since its launch nearly 22 years ago."

The new format will enable us to make even more adventurous use of pictures and text and will also provide an important new creative platform for colour magazine advertising.

The benefits for advertisers were emphasized by Mr Mike Ruda, Times Newspapers advertising director: "The increased page size will allow for considerable flexibility and creative opportunities for colour and monochrome advertisers."

The Sunday Times Magazine has always been a major showcase for colour advertising and we are sure that advertising agencies and clients will recognise the tremendous additional impact that the new international page size will present."

Finance and industry, page 13

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$20; Belgium 25; Canada \$20; France 25; Germany 25; Greece 25; Hong Kong 25; India 25; Italy 25; Japan 25; Korea 25; Luxembourg 25; Netherlands 25; New Zealand 25; Norway 25; Portugal 25; Spain 25; Sweden 25; Switzerland 25; Taiwan 25; Thailand 25; United Kingdom 25; USA 25; West Germany 25; Yugoslavia 25.

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Flotilla grows in a sea of paper

By Richard Evans

Fred T. Jane, a journalist with a penchant for practical jokes and japes as well as being the original compiler of the now world famous defence yearbooks, would, it is said, undoubtedly approve of the magazine caused by the defence industry's expansion.

The first edition of Jane's Defence Yearbook will land on the shelves of Nato's top brass, defence industry specialists and senior civil servants tomorrow but it has hit the headlines after the "leak" of a controversial interview with a senior allied commander.

As reported in The Times yesterday and in other national newspapers, Admiral Sir William Staveley, Nato commander-in-chief for the eastern Atlantic and the Channel, complains in the magazine that he lacks the ships to cover all his tasks.

It could hardly be better start for the magazine, which proudly claims to be the world's first "high-frequency" defence publication, and is the latest of the Jane's publishing explosion.

For years Jane's was the best known for its fighting ships year book, first compiled and printed in 1897. That edition had details of nearly every armoured ship afloat, about 1,000. Today's tome, weighing half a stone and costing more than £50, has

photographs, illustrations, and plans drawn with lists of more than 15,000 ships. It remains a bible for navies throughout the world and, according to Mr Richard Evans, of Jane's Publishing, "you will find it on the bridge of most warships, including Soviet vessels."

Although the first edition of what is now called Jane's All the World's Aircraft was produced in 1909, the expansion of yearly almanacs covering other defence fields was slow. It has only been over the past 15 years, and in particular since Thomson bought the firm four years ago from the British Printing Communications Corporation for £3.15m, that the number of publications has increased.

In 1982 alone, yearbooks were introduced covering aviation, airport equipment, and urban transport systems, bringing the total to 14 and an annual turnover which is now nearly £4m. About eighty staff are employed by the company, based in Islington, London.

The £50-plus price of the yearbooks deters most of the defence specialists from obtaining the latest reference books on subjects including world railways, freight containers, and industry weapons.

Instead, political, military, and civilian strategic planners are the main subscribers. State and government procurement agencies and embassies throughout



Fred T. Jane: Compiler of naval facts.

the world are regular purchasers along with defence equipment specialists, civilian and military officers.

Commentators as well as Western countries appear to place great reliance on the yearbooks. A military attaché from the Soviet and Chinese embassies arrives at the company headquarters the day a new addition of the fighting ships almanac is put on sale.

The new magazine will not be available initially on book-stalls but will be targeted at anyone who is anyone in the defence community. "It is going

to be like The Economist in its ordinary business," Mr Collett said. Its circulation target is 20,000, with the United States a favoured sales market.

Although Fred T. Jane, whose early interest in ships began when he staged mock naval actions on a village pond with his brother, is long since gone, his spirit lives on.

Mr Bob Hinchinson, the magazine's UK news editor, said yesterday: "I think Fred Jane was interested in reporting facts. That is what we are trying to do."

The detailed information that makes up the 900-page volumes is gleaned from manufacturers, publications, and outside bodies, many of whom supply information strictly unofficial.

Puppies bred for sale abandoned

More than 50 puppies bred by unemployed people in Wigan, Greater Manchester, have been abandoned because there were no buyers.

The RSPCA, which is caring for the animals, says they will have to be destroyed unless homes can be found. Most were at the age for selling over Christmas and New Year, a spokesman said yesterday, confirming "that people on the dole are breeding their pets to raise cash."

Mrs Thatcher was commenting on the remarkable success of a company which was expanding into its own 100,000 sq. ft. factory in Peterborough. A company that moved into a 40,000 sq. ft. advance factory only five years ago.

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Mother assaulted doctor who failed to diagnose illness that killed her son

By Michael Horswell

The grieving mother of a boy aged eight who died from meningitis twice assaulted the doctor who had been convicted of negligence for his handling of the case, a court was told yesterday.

Maureen Winn, aged 36, a housewife, of Radley Terrace, Canning Town, east London, was assessed by the failure of the General Medical Council (GMC) to strike Dr Oliver Archer off its register after confirming his negligence.

Mr Nigel Spearling, Labour MP for Newham South, is planning a private members' Bill to increase patients' recourse against negligent doctors.

Judge Burkett Baker, QC, said that the court would not comment on the decisions made by professional bodies, but sympathized with the bereavement Winn had suffered.

At Snaresbrook Crown Court she was given an absolute discharge on a charge of assaulting Dr Archer on April 27, last year, but a conditional discharge for two years for causing actual bodily harm on July 14, Maxine Winn, aged 18, her daughter, was given a conditional discharge for assaulting Dr Mary Lavelle and Mrs Sylvia Hannah, a receptionist, on July 20.

Both had admitted charges of actual bodily harm.

Winn said afterwards: "I am relieved, but I still think there is one law for us and one for them, the doctors."

"I have lost a son, the doctor has lost nothing, and there is nothing I can do to beat the man. The only thing I can do is to rely on the MP to change the law so that nobody else suffers."

Alfie Winn, who died in January 1982, was the official club mascot of West Ham United Football Club. Five days before the death, Dr Archer had diagnosed a bronchial problem and prescribed antibiotics.

Mr David Whitehouse, for the defence, said: "Until January 9, 1982, Alfie was a healthy, soccer-mad, eight-year-old. He was the intensely beloved son of Mrs Winn."

One night he was ill and by the next morning he was delirious. His mother attempted to contact the doctor at 8 o'clock the next morning.

After visiting the surgery she found her son in a deep sleep and with a temperature of 106F. After some difficulty in alerting the surgery Mrs Winn was

visited by Dr Archer three hours later.

But Mr Whitehouse said, his examination was cursory and he did not believe that the woman told him.

"We now know he almost certainly in a coma at the time, but the doctor carried out a superficial examination and asked him to open his mouth," Mr Whitehouse said. "Mrs Winn said 'He can't hear you'. Dr Archer responded 'If he cannot be bothered to open his bloody mouth I shall not bloody well look in'."

Dr Archer diagnosed congestion of the lungs and prescribed antibiotics. Two hours later Mrs Winn called an ambulance.

On July 1, 1982, the City and East London Family Practitioners' Committee censured Dr Archer and recommended that £1,000 be stopped from his pay.

The Secretary of State for Social Services accepted the recommendation and referred the case to the General Medical Council, which upheld the charges of negligence but decided that he was not guilty of serious professional misconduct.

Innocent that the doctor



Alfie Winn: Mascot at West Ham United.

should continue to practice. Winn took the law into her own hands. On April 27, the boy's birthday, she visited the surgery, which she does every day. Then she went to the surgery in Coolfin Road, Canning Town, east London, and entered Dr Archer's room.

Claiming that the doctor had admitted to her that he had lied to the professional bodies in order to save his job, Winn assaulted him and the police were called, although Dr Archer refused to prosecute.

A second assault happened after Winn had been advised that she could take no further legal steps to get Dr Archer struck off.

Then, on July 20, the family received a letter saying that Dr Lavelle, senior partner at the surgery, was requesting that Mr Roy Winn, Winn's husband, should be removed from her list; the rest of the family had already changed doctors.

With the letter was a national health card, which bore the initials A instead of R. That Winn took to be "a calculated and callous insult to the memory of her son".

With her daughter she went to the surgery. There Dr Lavelle allegedly said in an unguarded moment that she was uninterested in Alfie's case. Maxine was so incensed she struck Dr Lavelle and then she attacked Mrs Hannah, the receptionist.

Mr Whitehouse said that Dr Archer had decided to be a witness in the case because he felt he would be cross-examined about his treatment of the dead boy.

Mrs Gwen Davey, a magistrate and secretary of Newham Community Health Service, told the court: "Mrs Winn's case is the most serious I have received in eight years. She said that she wanted Dr Archer struck off because she did not want other people to suffer in the same way."

"It appears to me justice was not done. Mrs Winn has been overwhelmed by the events of her son's death."

The court was told that Mr Spearling believed the case had disclosed a grave lacuna in the powers of the GMC, and he now proposed a Bill to rectify it.

In a statement to the court he said: "When the GMC find charges proved which do not amount to serious professional misconduct they have no powers to order punishment or supervision of the offending doctor."

Poet's chintzy bohemia in a Town



Blue plaque no 478: Mrs Caitlin Thomas-Fazio, Dylan Thomas's widow (right), after unveiling the GLC's tribute to the poet in Camden yesterday.

By Alan Hamilton

The gypsy existence of Dylan Thomas in London has finally been pinned down to a modest terrace house in Camden Town, where he lived just long enough to have a commemorative blue plaque unveiled yesterday by his widow.

Thomas, as befitted his mercurial Celtic genius, never owned a house nor stayed anywhere for long. The temporary home at 54 Delancey Street, in the deep hinterland of Euston station, was provided by Mr Margaret Taylor, the wife of an Oxford don who became the nearest thing Thomas ever had to a patron.

His daughter Mrs Aeronwy Thomas Ellis recalled yesterday that the Thomas family had lived there for about a year in 1952. "It was decorated throughout by Margaret

Taylor in a riot of chintz, a real floral cornucopia." The present owner has allowed the Thomas family basement to slide into disuse.

Mrs Taylor also provided, appropriately, a Roman caravan in the back garden so that Thomas could fashion his words away from the clamour of his children, but he found it too cold and damp.

His widow, Mrs Caitlin Thomas-Fazio, who has remarried and now lives in Sicily, could recall little of the detail of domestic life in Camden, but she retained a memory of distant warmth.

"It is with mixed feelings of my wonderful Bohemian past and my present dull attempt at respectability, of being a model of squareness, that I place this plaque on our once worldly living and loving home, in loving memory of my irreplaceable Dylan".

Bribes claim as GP is accused

A doctor's failure to see two patients, one of whom died, led to threats, offers of bribes, and a medical disciplinary hearing in London was told yesterday.

Dr Sharangdar Prasad, aged 58, of Edgheaston, Birmingham, faces charges of serious professional misconduct. They are that he failed, in October, 1979, to visit and treat Mrs

Ruth Alam, of Handsworth, who was passing blood, and, in March and April, 1981, failed to visit and treat or arrange treatment for Mr Kartar Singh Sagoo, also of Handsworth. He died on April 2, 1981.

Mr Richard Emmell, for the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee, said that Mr Alam and his family were threatened and offered £600 and gifts by two people. The hearing continues.

Labour in clash over

The leader of a Labour-controlled education authority clashed yesterday with the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment over the case of three brothers who have not attended school since October.

Mr Philip Squire, chairman of mid-Glamorgan education committee, said that Mr Scott, education secretary of the Society, was "just not living in the real world" in advocating an end to caning in schools.

Solicitors acting for the boys have reported the case to the European Commission on Human Rights, which is expected to uphold a ruling that parental objections to corporal punishment must be respected.

The three brothers, Stuart, aged 15, Christopher, aged 14, and Stuart, aged 13, spent yesterday watching television at their home in Llanidloes, mid-Glamorgan. They have not attended school since Christopher

Doctors gain ground over deputies rule

Proposed restrictions on the use of deputizing services by family doctors to cover night and weekend calls will be reconsidered if GPs can produce effective arguments against them, Mr Kenneth Clarke said yesterday.

But he made clear that he will not allow them to use the services every night and weekend as some now do, and that he considers his own proposals flexible, despite doctors' condemnation of them as unacceptable and impracticable.

Prescribing A Suitable Case for Treatment, Occasional Paper 24 (Royal College of General Practitioners, 3 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JE, £3.95, inc postage).

Company to cash in on leisure

By Jonathan Clare

A company has been launched with the support of the English Tourist Board to invest millions of pounds in the leisure industry to help to cope with the expected increase in free time.

Although the inspiration came from the tourist board it will maintain an arms-length relationship with the new company, Leisure Development, which is wholly funded by the private sector through five big institutions.

Leisure Development's board, which includes Mr Walter Goldsmith, director

general of the Institute of Directors, and Mr John Knight, former finance director of the Playboy Group, has already identified six possible acquisitions.

It expects to invest in seven broad areas: health, hydro, country clubs, fitness, centres and dance studios, hotels, holiday villages, time-share developments, and "theme" restaurants.

In particular Mr Robert Updell, the chief executive, believes that increasing interest in health together with more

leisure time will mean a boom for health farms.

Yesterday he said that he was not interested in old-fashioned "fat farms" but health hydro where people want to relax and get fit.

He pointed out that of all the present hydro only two were in the hands of big companies - Champneys, owned by Eagle Star, the insurance group, and Forest Mere, owned by The Savoy Hotel.

Mr Updell said that there was much scope to invest in and aggressively manage the many hydro in private hands.

Builders find body at school

Murder squad detectives were called in last night after workmen preparing land for a new perimeter wall at Wraybury Middle School near Windsor, Berkshire, found a body, believed to be that of a child or young woman, two feet below the surface.

The police think the body might have been there for several years.

PC faces trial on burglary charges

Police Constable Anthony Robinson, of Aldbrough, Suffolk, was committed on bail for trial at Ipswich Crown Court on two burglary charges by Saxmundham magistrates yesterday.

PC Robinson, aged 41, is accused of stealing £161 in two raids on the same house in Aldbrough in October and November.

Man's diaries told of badger hunts

By Craig Seton

An alleged poacher kept detailed diaries of all his hunting trips and told police officers who raided his house that he had made enough money "at this game" to pay for his house, Totnes Magistrates' Court in Devon was told yesterday.

The magistrates were told that the case against Christopher Newton, aged 30, self-employed, of Plymouth, was unusual because the allegations against him of illegally taking, killing, or cruelly ill-treating badgers were based entirely on four diaries found at his home in which he gave details of his hunting trips.

Mr Newton denied four charges of unlawfully killing, injuring, or taking badgers, four charges of cruelly ill-treating badgers, and another four charges of using artificial light to kill or take badgers at

locations in Devon and Somerset.

Mr John Revell, for the prosecution, told the court that the diaries were the only positive evidence against Mr Newton. Nobody had seen him committing the alleged offences.

After a short adjournment the magistrates decided, despite protests by the defence, that the diaries were admissible as evidence, together with photographs of badgers allegedly taken by Mr Newton.

Mr Revell said that when Mr Newton was interviewed by the police he had insisted that some of the entries in his record were "moody" - that they had been made up.

Mr Revell said he thought that they were accurate records of Mr Newton's hunting trips in search of badgers, foxes, deer, and hares and showed

that he was a cruel man who sent dogs into badger sets to attack and worry badgers.

According to the prosecution, in one of the diaries, marked "large game", the 1981 total given showed that 48 foxes, 11 badgers, 13 hares, and two deer had been taken by a method known as "lamping" - using a lamp to light up animals which were then chased by lurcher dogs.

Another diary referred to Mr Newton's using three terriers to go after badgers.

Mr Revell said that Mr Newton "had an astonishing knowledge of the countryside and animals". He was able to "call" foxes, attracting them vocally so that dogs could be set on them.

Mr Revell alleged of the diaries: "These are not fanciful artificial fairy tales. They are a precise record by a calculating and clever man."

Fewer attend classical concerts

By David Hewson

Arts Correspondent

The London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Philharmonia are the capital's favourite orchestras according to figures published by the London Orchestral Concert Board yesterday showing that both achieved audiences as high as 76 per cent of capacity between April 1982, and last March.

But the Philharmonia's two concerts at the Royal Albert Hall attracted the lowest turnout of the year, 31 per cent, according to the board, which subsidizes the capital's four main orchestras.

The board's annual report documents a general decline in classical music audiences, although the Greater London Council says that the South Bank has experienced a revival in popularity in the period after the figures end.

The worst fall was at the Barbican where audiences for the London Symphony Orches-

trons dropped by nearly a third.

"Some of this may have been because the original novelty had worn off, some because certain programmes were more strange or challenging than usual, some because there were perhaps too many repeats, some because the total London audience for

orchestral concerts may not yet stretch to a nightly capacity of 5,000 seats," the report says.

Average attendance at concerts subsidized by the board, excluding the LSO, Barbican seasons, was 65 per cent compared with 68 per cent in the previous year.

AUDIENCE AT CONCERTS SUBSIDIZED BY THE LCCS (previous year's figures in brackets)

Orchestra	Number of Concerts	Seats Sold	Average % of Capacity
Festival Hall (capacity 2,900)	35 (32)	65,269 (60,799)	98 (87)
London Phil LSO	27 (22)	39,720 (35,978)	93 (84)
Philharmonia	36 (40)	77,785 (91,163)	76 (79)
Royal Phil	30 (32)	52,307 (59,441)	70 (84)
Albert Hall (capacity 3,875)	11 (12)	32,888 (34,514)	78 (73)
London Phil Philharmonia	2 (1)	2,288 (2,858)	31 (72)
Barbican Hall (capacity 1,734)	4 (5)	3,922 (5,221)	57 (80)
London Phil LSO	1 (0)	1,288 (0)	54 (44)
Philharmonia	5 (5)	4,672 (4,650)	55 (54)
Royal Phil	22 (17)	23,507 (21,601)	62 (78)
Wembley Conference Centre (capacity 2,400)	1 (-)	1,242 (-)	50 (-)
Barbican Hall (capacity 2,026)	6 (-)	7,888 (-)	54 (-)

Film institute picks TV for 1984 theme

By Our Arts Correspondent

The British Film Institute is turning to television for the main theme of its work this year. Its "Year of Television" will give the public the chance to see several programmes once thought lost and two versions of 1984 which were banned by George Orwell's widow.

The public will also take part in discussions on the implications of new communications technology.

One of the first screenings, *Boys from the Blackstuff* at the National Film Theatre later this month, has already sold out. The institute also expects to sell every ticket for the screening of the BBC's 30-year-old adaptation of 1984 and a subsequent film version.

Leading article, page 11

Man's diaries told of badger hunts

By Craig Seton

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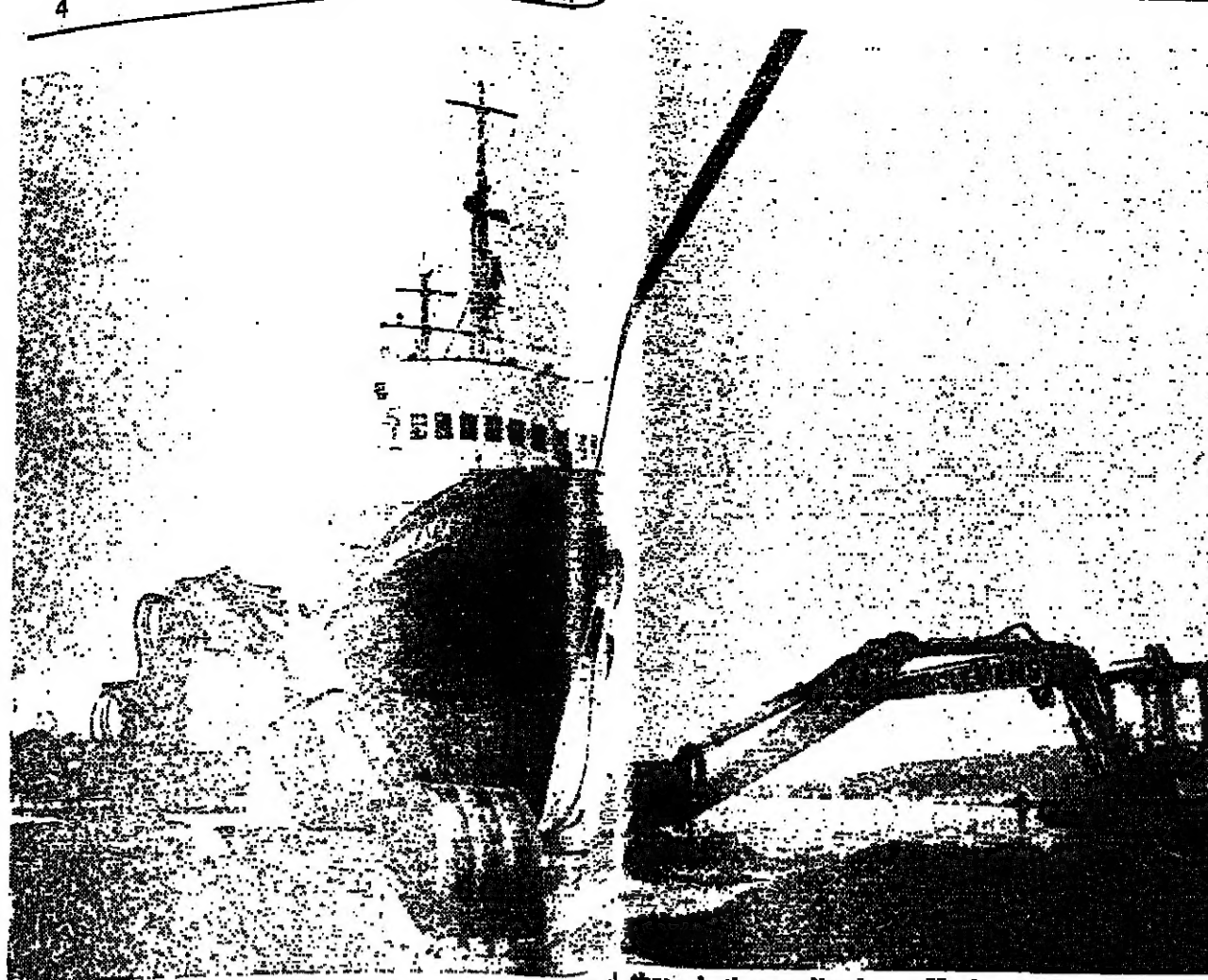
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Digging deep: Mechanical diggers trying to make a ditch through the sandbanks at Hayle estuary in St Ives, Cornwall, for the grounded German tug Fairplay X. The tug was aground after trying to tow a coaster to safety last week. The low water now means the Fairplay X is unlikely to be moved until the next spring high tide in 10 days' time. The crew of seven was off the tug last Tuesday.

Tax staff unrest grows in battle over computers

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Inland Revenue is facing a prolonged period of staff unrest as it attempts to meet government targets for reducing manpower levels while bringing into use computerized equipment that will mark the biggest change in tax collection methods for more than a century.

Staff levels in the revenue have been cut from the 1979 level of 85,000 to about 70,000. A further 7,000 jobs are due to disappear by April 1985. Of those losses, 4,000 will come from the introduction of COP (computerization of PAYE), although union officials fear that up to a further 3,000 jobs could go.

The revenue board management is bemused by union hostility to the computerization. "There was a time when we used the quill pen, then the fountain pen, the Biro, and now a computer, but it is still exactly the same job," an official said.

But the computerization is viewed differently by the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, a

traditionally moderate union which has issued a writ against the board to be heard in the High Court tomorrow to restrain the management from suspending staff refusing to operate the new equipment.

The £200m computer system which is due to be operational by 1988, will be based on 12 regional computer centres. The first, at Telles Shropshire, is the centre of dispute. Fourteen district offices in the West Midlands are linked to the Teiford computer which will handle all aspects of the PAY As You Earn system.

Notices of coding sent out to the revenue will be computerized and the management say that it will make the service handling of the affairs of 25 million taxpayers more efficient. It should also, they say, make life much easier for tax office staff.

The revenue has been using for more than two decades a system and the first trial computers started in the 1960s at East Kilbride, Scotland. A computer was installed, the first of a planned network of computers, but then the project was shelved as the Heath Government investigated the feasibility of introducing a tax credit system.

Changes of government and arguments over ordering of the computer equipment affected the plans in the 1970s and now introduction has been blocked by the federation which is asking for a commitment from the management that there will be no compulsory redundancies.

The revenue argues that it cannot give such a guarantee because it is being affected by so many outside influences, notably the Government's determination to reduce further the size of the Civil Service.

Union officials argue that there has to be a full agreement on new technology before their members will agree to operate the computers and the agreement must encompass alternative working patterns.

Choice that faces TV viewers

Society will have to place more trust in broadcasters or opt for more regulation of television during the coming telecommunications revolution, Sir Ian Trethowan, the former Director-General of the BBC, says in a pamphlet published by the Conservative Political Centre yesterday (Our Arts Correspondent writes).

Sir Ian, now the chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, writes in the personal contribution published by the centre: "We are going to have to say either that the British people cannot be trusted with the unlimited choice which is going to be possible on television and so must be subject to fresh constraints, or we must say and believe that the average family is basically sensible enough to apply a careful and decent judgment to the way it uses its television set."

"Of course, there will be exceptions, of course there will be abuse, but do we accept that as the price of freedom of choice as the price of freedom of choice?" he asks.

The new age of broadcasting would pose considerable problems for society as a whole. The New Age of Broadcasting (CPC, 32 Smith Square, London SW1, £1).

Whitehall brief

League table for the watchdogs

By Peter Hennessy

After a gap of nearly a year, due to the general election and Labour's preoccupation with its internal leadership affairs, 1984 sees the start of the new select committee season as Westminster's watchdogs acquire new chairmen, new members and new topics for investigation.

With perfect timing, Mr Michael O'Higgins, a social policy analyst at Bath University who advised the Commons Social Services Committee in its opening session, has produced the result of a study of MPs' attitudes to the 1979-model committees during the first Parliament of their existence.

With funds provided by the Nuffield Foundation, MORI was commissioned to interview a sample 100 MPs. These included a mixture of backbenchers and frontbenchers including 15 Conservative ministers (two of them in the Cabinet), 40 Conservative backbenchers, 12 Opposition spokesmen and 33 Opposition backbenchers.

Given the competitive nature of Westminster life, politicians

EEC agriculture: 2

Mixed harvest for the newcomers

On January 1, 1973, Britain became a member of the EEC amid deep popular misgivings, although British farmers were broadly in favour. The Irish Republic, in contrast, entered on a wave of public enthusiasm, while Denmark, despite the closeness of the referendum, conveyed the impression that it had no real alternative.

Ireland's heavy dependence on agriculture put it in a different category from either of its two fellow newcomers. Membership of the EEC was welcomed as a means of widening its markets and improving living standards.

The heavy years immediately after entry fulfilled most people's predictions, with real economic growth and considerable agricultural prosperity.

However, once the transition to full involvement in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was completed in 1978, it became apparent that future improvements in income would have to come from greater efficiency.

Since then there have been some criticisms of the CAP, but with agriculture accounting for more than 12 per cent of the country's gross national pro-

duct, one fifth of employment and one third of exports, Ireland remains a firm supporter.

While the republic overwhelmingly endorsed Europe, a majority of only 21,000 in Northern Ireland was in favour of entry. (Farmers supported the higher prices the EEC offered, but were distinctly alarmed about the political connotations.)

Under the CAP the dairy and beef industry has done well, though the pig and poultry sector has been hit hard.

As a country exporting two thirds of its entire agricultural production, and with those exports accounting for two thirds of its foreign exchange earnings, Danish farmers at least were in no doubt about the wisdom of joining the EEC.

Despite undergoing at present their worst crisis since the last war, they remain convinced that they are better off inside the EEC than outside.

its industrial exports to buy grain, meat and dairy products cheaply on world markets.

Since 1973 self-sufficiency in temperate products has increased to more than 70 per cent, but the farming sector remains relatively small. Farms are on average far larger than in any other EEC country and are claimed to be the most efficient in Europe.

This is ironically the main reason for the relative unpopularity of farmers in Britain. Because there are comparatively few of them, their ties with the rest of the community are less strong, and their high productivity makes it seem that too much EEC money is going into too few pockets.

The big grain and dairy farmers however, do not represent the whole of British agriculture. In the Hills of Scotland, Wales and the South-west there are many small farmers who are certainly no better off than their Continental counterparts.

Pig and poultry producers have gained little or nothing from the CAP, since they do not enjoy support prices.

Tomorrow: CAP reform

remarkable as "kudos" is not a word normally associated with the Department of Education.

Those propping up the league table can acquire some helpful hints from Mr O'Higgins' data about what makes a committee effective. The ingredients which consistently scored highest were the commitment of the committee members and the advice supplied by specialist advisers. A chairman's personality counted for more than his specialist knowledge.

Some 80 per cent of the MPs polled thought the select committee system introduced in 1979 was a much needed reform. But MPs tended to believe the new watchdogs had had little effect on Parliament's ability to control the executive.

The greatest impact of the committees, according to the poll, had been in prising information from Whitehall. Some 90 per cent of the MPs thought they had been very or fairly successful at that.

House of Commons: A Study of the views of MPs (Michael O'Higgins Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy, Bath University, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY, £2.50).

Sinhalese and Tamils sit down together in attempt to bury hatchet

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

The best chance to date of solving Sri Lanka's desperate ethnic problem comes today with the opening of so-called "amity talks" with the main political parties representing the two communities - the Sinhalese and the Tamils.

The moist warmth of the island's climate has not yet managed to hide the scars left by the spasms of communal violence last summer, when the majority Sinhalese turned on the Tamils, murdering them and burning their homes and businesses.

But under the firm prodding of India both sides have agreed at least to sit down together to see if they can reach a compromise. It will have to satisfy the craving of the minority for security and for their own voice in their own affairs, without too far offending the Sinhalese desire to preserve the unity and integrity of the small island state.

Mr Junius Jayewardene, the President, is in a strong position to carry through an agreed compromise if he should choose to do so. He has won both a presidential election and a controversial constitutional referendum in the past 12 months, and his known attitudes and statements have done much to reassure the majority that he is giving nothing away.

Indeed, on a platform in front of a Buddhist audience he can sound very like a Sinhalese nationalist, and personally has a good deal of blame to bear for the failure of the last great compromise attempt between the two communities nearly 30 years ago.

Then, after Solomon Bandaranaike came to an historic agreement with the Tamil leader, S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, he was forced to abrogate it because of the opposition of Mr Jayewardene, who led a dramatic march from Colombo to Kandy in 1957, which ended in violent dissension as their rival parties clashed.

Ironically, today's talks will take place in the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, a marble palace built by the Chinese. It is also ironic that Mr Bandaranaike's old party, at present run by his widow, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, last night decided to boycott the talks.

Jayewardene will have to carry his own extremists with him in any compromise. Hardliners in his own Cabinet, the most prominent of whom is Mr Cyril Matthew, the Industries Minister, are known to hold the view that the talks are a waste of time: all that is needed is for the

Tamils to give up their aspirations for a separate state, and all will be well.

But the representatives of the Tamil United Liberation Front must also keep a wary eye on their extremists. In the Tamil case they carry guns, and many Tamil politicians, thought to be too ready to compromise with the Sinhalese, have been assassinated by the terrorists, the Katoya or Tamil Tigers.

The TULF leaders, who have arrived in Colombo from Madras, and are under heavily armed seclusion in a hotel, have not yet agreed to give up their demand for an independent Tamil state, but have undertaken to attend the talks to see if a "viable alternative" can be put forward.

The only suggestion to have been given any publicity - that the Tamils should be allowed to combine the northern and eastern provinces where they predominate, into one region - is viewed with great hostility by the Government.

However, the Government has apparently dropped a discussion paper, whose first point called for the giving up of the idea of a separate state and the renunciation of the Tamil Tigers in favour of another paper which glosses over these points.

Rebels free nine but hold two in Uganda

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

Three Swiss women Red Cross workers and six Ugandans were yesterday freed after being kidnapped by anti-government guerrillas. But a French doctor, M. Pierre Perrin, and a Ugandan, who was not named, were still being held.

The Red Cross group left Kampala on Saturday to visit a refugee camp in Mpigi district, about 40 miles from the capital. They did not return and their vehicles were found abandoned. They were seen being led into the bush by four armed men, believed to be members of the National Resistance Army, which has been fighting in the area for nearly three years.

Uganda's Interior Minister, Mr John Luwiza-Kirunda, condemned the "bandits" for causing suffering to innocent people.

Diplomats here say the guerrillas are not likely to harm the group, but may have abducted them to demonstrate that the rebels remain a threat. The Government says its forces have driven most of the rebels out.

Hundreds of thousands of Ugandans are homeless in areas formerly controlled by the guerrillas, after the launch last year of an army action. The Red Cross is helping to provide food and other aid to refugee camps in Mpigi and adjoining areas.

Coalition is confident in Danish poll

From Christopher Follett Copenhagen

More than three million Danes vote today in a general election which is expected to result in a victory for the Conservative Party led by Mr Poul Schluter, the Prime Minister.

Postal votes have been 30 per cent higher than in the last election - in December, 1981, pointing to an above average turnout, which could bring to an end 10 years of political deadlock.

All opinion polls predict a doubling of the Conservative share of the vote, and the strengthening of Mr Schluter's 16-month-old, four-party Conservative-Liberal minority coalition, at the cost of the biggest single party, the Social Democrats, and the right-wing Progress Party.

The government needs support in Parliament from auxiliary parties to give it a majority; unless the government can achieve an acceptable overall majority, there is the threat of a fresh election in March. Opposition parties, which voted down the coalition's 1984 Capital Finance Bill in December, bringing about today's election, have threatened to repeat their veto.

"I feel confident that voters will give our bourgeois coalition a clear mandate to continue Denmark's economic recovery," Mr Schluter said at his last pre-election press conference.

At a later press meeting in Parliament, Mr Anker Jorgensen, the Social Democratic opposition leader and Prime Minister from 1975 to 1982, seemed to concede defeat.



Chad rivals: President Habré (left) with ex-President Goukouni in May, 1979, when they were both members of a transitional government.

Faction rivalries delay Chad talks

Addis Ababa (Reuters) Talks aimed at ending Chad's civil war were delayed here yesterday, but officials of the Organization of African Unity, the Ethiopian Government and rival Chad factions were still discussing how to convene the meeting. No precise time was given for the start, but OAU officials said the talks were scheduled to last until Friday.

The OAU's Secretary General, Mr Peter Ona, was quoted by officials as saying that the absence from the talks of President Hissène Habré of Chad should not prevent the negotiations from taking place.

Mr Habré decided at the last moment to stay away because Colonel Mengistu, the Ethiopian leader, went to the airport to meet the former President of Chad, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, Mr Habré's opponent, when he arrived on Sunday.

Mr Habré has said that would regard this as granting Mr Goukouni equal status with him at the conference. He has set out strict guidelines for attending.

OAU sources said, however, that Colonel Mengistu, although present to greet Mr Goukouni, did not accord him ceremonies traditionally reserved for heads of state.

Mr Goukouni who is backed by Libya arrived here at the head of at least 11 of the Chad factions invited to the meeting. Two other factions are part of the Chad Government, another one was absent, and the status of yet another was not clear.

The Chad Government delegation of about 25 officials, including several Cabinet members, was headed by the Interior Minister Mr Taher Guinassou.

Wage restraint sought from Swedish unions

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Sweden's Socialist Government, announcing its budget for 1984, claims that the way has been paved for a substantial upswing in the Swedish economy, but calls for continued wage restraint from the unions.

The main vindication of Socialist policies contained in the 4,000-page budget statement by Mr Kjell-Olaf Feldt, the Financial Minister, is that the budget deficit has been cut from 84.9 bn kronor (£7.3 bn) in 1983-4 to 80.8 bn in 1984-5.

Mr Feldt says that, by their policies, the Socialists have made it possible for Sweden to work and save itself out of its economic crisis.

As one of the main pointers to recovery, Mr Feldt cites the balance of trade deficit, reduced from 22 bn kronor in 1982 to 6 bn kronor in 1983.

He says the profitability of Swedish companies has been

"manifestly bettered", but pleads with the unions for wage restraint in order to hold inflation at 4 per cent in 1984.

In a statement clearly aimed at the trade unions, Mr Feldt points out that the Government is introducing wage-earner funds, which will allow elected committees of trade unionists to buy shares in private companies.

He also lays heavy emphasis on measures taken by the Socialists to cut unemployment, claiming that an additional 20,000 people are now in subsidized jobs or on retraining schemes.

Government spending to ease unemployment in 1984-5 is set at 15.4 bn kronor, however, a reduction of 1.6 bn compared with the previous year, and the budget talks of an all-round 2 per cent cut in public spending.

Cautious Suharto budget puts up fuel prices

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta

President Suharto of Indonesia unveiled a cautious \$20.5bn (£4.6bn) budget yesterday, reflecting the continuing effects of the world depression and flat oil prices. He ended a two-year freeze on routine expenditure, however, by raising Civil Service and military salaries by 15 per cent.

The President, speaking on television, said that domestic fuel prices would rise for the third successive year, and that new systems of personal, corporate and value-added taxes would be rigidly enforced.

The budget is 24 per cent higher in rupiah terms than last year's austerity package, but down in dollar terms when the effect of last year's 27 per cent

Prisoners of conscience

Czechoslovakia: Ladislav Lis

By Caroline Moorehead

Ladislav Lis, an active member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and former spokesman for Charter 77, is seriously ill in prison. He is serving a 14-month sentence, to be followed by three years of "protective surveillance" for "incitement" and "theft of socialist property".

In the late seventies he signed Charter 77, and became a member of VONS, which monitors violations of human rights. That same year, 1978, he was detained for allowing his domestic animals to graze in a communal field. Though Mr Lis was released after two months for lack of evidence, this marked the start of a period of police surveillance and harassment.

On January 5, 1983, Mr Lis was arrested at his house in northern Bohemia.

Several Italian warrants are out for the arrest of Signor Piazienza, who was adviser to the late Roberto Calvi of Banco Ambrosiano during the last months of his life. Signor Piazienza is believed to be in the United States.

The detention of Signor Storcello is but one in a series of difficulties facing the Sicilian Regional Government. The Opposition has made known that it will call for its resignation in a debate in the assembly today.

Top Sicilian accused of corruption

From John Earle Rome

Signor Salvatore Storcello, Deputy Prime Minister of the Sicilian Regional Government, who was arrested on Friday, has been brought to a Rome jail and charged with corruption. The case relates to a call for tenders for an aerial photograph survey of Sicily, including Comiso, site of the US-controlled cruise missile base.

The firm selected to win the 12bn lire (£5m) contract - which, in the event, has not been awarded - is alleged to have been prepared to pay 250m to 600m lire (£230,000 to £530,000) in under-the-counter commissions. The arrangements were reported to have been in the hands of the woman head of a public relations agency, also under arrest, who has business links with Signor Francesco Pazienza, a 30-year-old financier.

The arrest of Signor Storcello is but one in a series of difficulties facing the Sicilian Regional Government. The Opposition has made known that it will call for its resignation in a debate in the assembly today.

Top Sicilian accused of corruption

There can be no doubt that the arrest of Signor Storcello is but one in a series of difficulties facing the Sicilian Regional Government. The Opposition has made known that it will call for its resignation in a debate in the assembly today.

Nigeria goes back to the barracks as last governors are sworn in

From Kenneth Mackenzie, Lagos

The place from which Nigeria is governed was called Dodan Barracks from 1966 to 1979. Then, under President Shagari, it became known as State House, Ribadu Road. Now it is called Dodan Barracks again.

Yesterday I was able to watch the new Government at work at the swearing-in of two state governors. Outside the main building, a huge oil painting of Mr Shagari was leaning against a palm tree, waiting to be thrown away.

Security was tight, with several armoured cars outside and soldiers around. Three times we had to show our credentials. Once inside, however, the atmosphere was light and informal, with the officers of the Supreme Military Council mixing freely.

General Mohammed Buhari looks younger and slighter than you would expect of the head of a military Government. He smiles easily and conducts affairs briskly, with no pomposity.

The Chief of Protocol, Ambassador Yusuf Sada, a venerable grey-haired man, presented the governors to be sworn in. Someone in the press section calculated that Mr Sada had served all seven governments - two civilian and five military - which Nigeria had seen since independence.

He is a remarkable symbol

of the way a Civil Service maintains a degree of continuity and stability amid flux. The two governors sworn in were of Rivers State and Anambra. The governors of the other 17 were sworn in two days ago. The Anambra governor was absent then because of transport difficulties. The Rivers State story is more interesting.

There was a small scandal over the military man first chosen. It seems that his wife had been the secretary to the previous civilian governor, who is in detention. One of the local newspapers made a fuss.

In a short slightly embarrassed speech General Buhari explained that the Government had no proof of any wrongdoings by the wife, but was determined to avoid being associated in any way with a scandal. And so, another man has been appointed.

The civilian politicians were less sensitive about such a matter. As a result, a large number - the exact figure is not known, but there are probably hundreds - are detained, many elsewhere in Dodan Barracks. Mr Shagari is said to be in Bonny Camp, Victoria Island, Lagos. The military leaders - and the public - are upset that three of the biggest fish have escaped.

They are Chief Adisa Akin-

loye, the former chairman of the ruling party, Dr Joseph Wayas, former president of the Senate, and Mr Umaru Dikko, a former minister and the man who planned - or rigged - the election victory for Mr Shagari in August.

Houses have been searched and friends and relatives questioned, but it seems certain all three are safely overseas.

The Supreme Military Council is:

Head of Government and Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces: Major-General Mohammed Buhari.

Chief of Staff: Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon.

Defence Minister: Major-General B. Y. Ball.

Army Chief of Staff: Major-General Ibrahim Babangida.

Navy Chief of Staff: Commodore Augustine Akomo.

Air Force Chief of Staff: Air Vice-Marshal Ibrahim Alfa.

Other members of the council are: Major-General Mamman Vatsa, Brigadier Mohammed Magoro, Brigadier Sanni Abacha, Brigadier Olu Ori, Brigadier M. J. Nasco, Brigadier Y. Y. Kuru, Brigadier Paul Omu, Captain Ebeke Okwe, Air Commodore Lawrence Koyin, Inspector-General of Police: Colonel Saliu Ibrahim James Etim Nyang, Director-General of Nigeria Security Organisation: Mohammed Rafindadi, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: Mr Chibha Offodico.



Olympian controversy: Most Italians in a phone-in survey by state-run radio were opposed to suggestions that these bronze Greek statues, attributed to sent from Italy to the Los Angeles Olympics this summer.

Kissinger report will recommend keeping US aid for Contras

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Dr Henry Kissinger's commission on Central America, which reports to President Reagan tomorrow, will recommend continued American aid to Honduras-based guerrillas fighting the left-wing FSLN Government of Nicaragua.

The devastation caused to the Nicaraguan economy by the guerrillas, supported by the Soviet Union, training and direct involvement in raiding missions by the CIA, is one of the most controversial aspects of American policy in the region. Dr Kissinger appears to have headed the 12-member commission to adopt a tone consistently consistent with the Reagan Administration's hard-line policies towards Central America.

But on one point, at least, he does not have got all that he wants. He favours substantial military and economic aid to the Government of El Salvador, which has a four-year

guerrilla war on its hands, but does not want it tied to improvements in human rights.

The commission, however, is believed to be determined to make the provision of more aid conditional on continued improvements in human rights and progress towards full democracy. Last November President Reagan vetoed a Bill requiring "certification" of such progress in exchange for continued aid.

The Administration's view that West Europe should join the United States in providing assistance to Central America has reportedly been taken up by the commission. This point was emphasized by Mr Richard Stone, Mr Reagan's special envoy to the region.

President Reagan would like to resume aid to Guatemala, which has been repeatedly accused by human rights groups of being one of the most brutal regimes in Central America.

Kissinger's cleverness, page 10

Contadora peace plan endorsed

San Jose (Reuters) The foreign Ministers of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua have endorsed here on measures aimed at bringing peace to Central America.

They approved a document drawn up by Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela which emphasizes demilitarization of the region and calls for three commissions to work on the treaties.

The document, based on a joint plan approved in November, includes proposals for an arms inventory and a timetable for eventual elimination of foreign military aid.

The commissions on security, political, economic and social issues would be set up by the end of the month, with two representatives from each Central American country.

The document calls for the identification and eradication of irregular forces which operate across the territory of Central American states and against another government in the region.

Surinam Cabinet dismissed

From Robert Schull, Amsterdam

Lieutenant-Colonel Desi Bouterse, the military leader of Surinam, the former Dutch colony in South America, has dismissed the civilian Cabinet led by Mr Errol Alibux, and has rescinded all tax increases that went into effect in the New Year.

For nearly four weeks workers in the bauxite industry have been on strike against the increases, a measure taken by the Government to qualify for a loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Bauxite is the mainstay of the economy, which is on the verge of bankruptcy, in part because of the suspension by The Netherlands of its £2,200m aid programme to Surinam after the execution in December, 1982, of 15 leading opponents of the military regime.

In his television speech announcing the measures, Colonel Bouterse accused the Alibux Cabinet of not having listened sufficiently to the people.

Support for Mr Alibux came mainly from the Progressive Union of Workers and Farmers.

Anti-Guinea mercenaries arrested in Senegal

From Susan MacDonald, Dakar

Seventeen mercenaries and three recruiting sergeants have been arrested at Kolda, in the southern Casamance region of Senegal.

The arrested men are alleged to have been recruited to mount operations intended to destabilize the regime of President Sekou Toure in neighbouring Guinea.

According to the official Senegalese newspaper *Le Soleil*, the mercenaries were on their way when arrested to a training camp in another unspecified West African country. Although the arrests were announced yesterday, they are believed to have taken place over the new year. The arrested men have

been brought to Dakar.

According to the newspaper report, 15 of the mercenaries are from Guinea-Bissau, a former Portuguese colony which joins Guinea to the west; two are from Senegal and the recruiting sergeants from Guinea.

President Sekou Toure has been Guinea head of state since the country's independence from France in 1960. He has in the past never been close to his neighbouring francophone states, preferring to follow a pro-Soviet line.

Over the years there have been accusations of destabilization, real or imagined, against Guinea's neighbours.

Zhao meets Reagan today

From Moissin Ali, Washington

Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, and President Reagan today hold their long-awaited first meeting determined to ease tensions and expand trade and technological ties between their countries.

Mr Zhao spent yesterday relaxing at the restored colonial town of Williamsburg, in southern Virginia. He arrived there on Sunday after a 24-hour visit to Hawaii, mostly sightseeing. He watched island dances and during a visit to the war memorial at Pearl Harbour, he told his guide he hoped for everlasting peace between China and the United States and the rest of the world.

Mr Zhao's meetings with Mr Reagan at the White House this week are intended to

symbolize a more stable and deepening relationship between their two governments, who have been at loggerheads over the continued US arms sales to Taiwan, which China claims as its province.

Mr Zhao's talks here on bilateral matters and world issues will help to pave the way for President Reagan's first state visit to Peking in April, American officials said.

The White House discussions are expected to range over East-West relations, arms control issues, Afghanistan, Vietnam and other Asian developments. The Middle East and Africa, international economic and trading questions are also likely to be on the agenda.

Mr Zhao, arrives in Washington today on a three-day visit. Both Washington and Peking seem anxious to improve relations and play down past disputes.

The Chinese leader's visit is expected to mark a significant change from Peking's attitude about 18 months ago, when it was vehemently criticizing the Reagan Administration's arms supplies to Taiwan.

American officials expect Mr Zhao to raise the controversial Taiwan issue.

In August, 1982, the US promised that it would gradually reduce its arms sales to Taiwan after Peking had publicly pledged to continue its "fundamental policy" of seeking a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question.

Sharp in China crime

Peking (AP) - China's crime rate fell 42.5 per cent in 1982, the national crackdown on crime last August, Security Ministry said.

The announcement by the official news agency Xinhua, said crime committed "atrocious" been executed while exiling repeat offenders to remote regions for re-education.

The Public Security Ministry said China's national police had arrested 45,400 criminals by 44.9 per cent.



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Europe faces surgeon's knife

The EEC faces "the certainty of bankruptcy" before the summer if the member states cannot agree on a common agricultural policy. That was the dire warning from the European Commission in Brussels yesterday when agriculture ministers met for the first time under the French presidency to plan for the future.

According to Mr Gaston Thon, the Commission president, the £10,000m agriculture budget for 1984 will be unable to meet 10 per cent of the bills, even if ministers agree to freeze prices at current levels.

In the words of Mr Paul Dalsager, the Agriculture Commissioner: "It is not a matter of economizing by eating smaller oysters with a cheaper brand of champagne. It is a matter of accustoming ourselves to the sensation of leaving the table with a stomach less than full, but still with enough nutrition to preserve health and vigour."

Giving "a few plain, blunt, inescapable facts", he warned the ministers that, unless they took the necessary and painful decisions in the near future, then certainly before the year was out the CAP would falter and collapse. If it did, "then the whole edifice of the European Community will be at the brink of failure."

The Community was already about two years late in taking the necessary decisions. "We have passed the point at which minor surgery was recommended and rejected as too painful. Now we have to recommend major surgery. This will hurt a great deal, but it is dangerous to put off the operation again."

in bankruptcy?

From Ian M...

ng to Mr John Mac... the Junior British... There was a lot of... of the urgency and... He said that it was... felt that there was a... economics and overall... been "a very sober... discussion".

ture ministers had... that it was time to... their responsibilities... al policies. They... aiming to agree on... of reforms based on... commission proposals... of March.

laser said that, even if... ters agreed on bringing... edately the reforms... by the Commission... if no unfavourable... influences affected... prices, there would still... money for price increases

or for getting rid of the... "intolerable levels" of surplus... es.

"However you may try to... juggle with the figures, there is... no escape from it," he said. They were desperately short of... time. If there was to be any... hope of avoiding disaster, then... the reform package would have... to be in place by the end of... March.

M Michel Rocard, the French... minister chairing the meeting... gave a warning that the... Community was in danger of... abandoning the principles... underlying the CAP. The... Community, he said, should not... be afraid of taking up its... position as the second largest... exporter of agricultural produce... in the world, but it had to... produce the food which was... needed at the prices clients... could afford to pay.

Tunisian protest to Libya

Oil pipeline sabotaged

From Godfrey Morrison

Tunisia yesterday sent a diplomatic note to Libya in connection with the sabotage of an oil pipeline in southern Tunisia, only a mile from the Libyan frontier. It was officially announced here.

A blaze started by the sabotage attack, which occurred in the early hours of Sunday, was only put out on Sunday afternoon, a Tunisian Defence Ministry spokesman said.

It had been established that four armed men had crossed from Libya into Tunisia territory in a Land Rover-type vehicle to carry out the attack. The pipeline links an Algerian oilfield with the Tunisian port of Es Schira in the Gulf of Gabes.

The sabotage attack came just after political tension in Tunisia, high for over a week due to food riots, had been removed by President Bourguiba's decision to cancel the increases.

Because of the volatile nature of Tunisian-Libyan relations, which have varied from proposed union of the two countries to unconcealed hostility, there was much speculation about whether Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, was in instigator or would become involved in the unrest caused by the food riots here.

However, during the riots there was no evidence of Libyan involvement and at their height Mr Muhammad Mzali, the



Tunisian Prime Minister, received a telephone call from Colonel Gaddafi assuring him that Libya had done nothing to stir up trouble.

But Tunisian belief that the oil pipeline blaze was caused by saboteurs coming from Libya is certain to reawaken old suspicions here about Colonel Gaddafi's real intentions towards the country.

In 1980 dissidents attacked a police station at Gafsa, also in the south, and the Tunisians made no secret of their belief that they had been inspired by the Libyans.

Meanwhile, the situation here continues to return to normal. Though a curfew is still in force, its length has been reduced, and the yesterday the greatest sign of the Government's returning to confidence came with the announcement that schools and universities are to reopen on Thursday.

The Government yesterday issued an implied criticism of the way the police in Tunis had

affairs before the Army... with a declaration of... emergency. The capital's... of police has been... and the force placed... the command of the... police.

PSA: Panic-stricken... were blamed for the high... toll from the recent... riots which hit this area of... from Tunisia worse than... (AFP reports).

Gafsa and nearby Kasse... sources said that nine... had been killed and... dozen injured, and... was severe. In Gafsa... two hotels in the town... were looted and burnt... in the town's public... a statue of President... quibbling smashed on the... is evidence of national... Friday, however, the... was a hero, and in... as elsewhere the popu... demonstrated its support... the head of state after he... the price rises.

In the road south from... every village bears the... of the rioting, with traces... barricades on the roads... and down broken, and... of burnt-out cars, the... of violence in the... two days of violence in... a town of 70,000... inhabitants, four schoolchildren... an unemployed man were... by police bullets and... other people wounded, the way the police in Tunis had

Sterling's fall 'cost EEC £50m'

From Our Own Correspondent

The European Parliament and Commission have cost the hard-up EEC at least £50m in paying over budget rebates to Britain. This emerges from the report of the Community's Court of Auditors for 1982, just published.

The loss was due to the way the value of sterling plummeted at the start of last year, at a time when the Parliament had unexpectedly voted to block payment of a rebate worth £490m to Britain.

The mix-up began when the Commission began to assemble the money it expected it would have to pay Britain by December 31, 1982. It did this by what the Court of Auditors terms a "surprising" way of purchasing sterling with other European currencies held in its bank accounts in other member states.

This money was then transferred to the Commission's account with the Bank of England - known as Treasury Chambers EEC1 - ready for transferring to a brand-new account opened in the name of Treasury Chambers EEC3.

Then, on December 16, 1981, the Parliament threw out the package for paying Britain and West Germany their agreed rebates. This meant it was impossible to meet the end-of-year deadline for payment, though it was still possible to reach agreement on another payment method before the end of the British fiscal year on March 31. But the Commission still transferred the money from "EEC 1" to "EEC 3" by December 31. The court considers that the proper course would have been to share out the money among member states.

This was done without Parliament's authorization and meant that Britain and West Germany - which had a similar special account for its £120m rebate - benefited from the money at the Community's expense.



All smiles: A Lebanese woman and an Israeli soldier at the Awali checkpoint as she crosses from the north into Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon.

Aged Jordan MPs limp back after years in wilderness

From Christopher Walker, Amman

There have been few more bizarre moves in the search for Middle East peace than yesterday's convening of the defunct Jordanian National Assembly, a long-forgotten body, most of whose members are of such venerable age (the Speaker is in his eighties) that it is referred to locally as "the rotting parliament".

The urgent need for King Husain to order the controversial recall before the legal quorum of 40 disappeared for ever, was painfully apparent in the members' lobby, where many of the 46 living deputies walked on sticks. One limped from the chamber on the arms of two colleagues, face waxen pale and breathing unweasily.

Although wags in the opulent press gallery suggested that the assembly should have met in the intensive-care unit of the King Hussein Hospital, its recall was warmly welcomed by Jordanian anxious to reconstitute political life after nearly 17 years without an election.

The historic session took place under threat from Syria and the mounted heavy machine guns on jeeps, at either side of the new parliament building, were reminder of the danger that the Hashemite monarch may face violent opposition to his plan.

Streets on either side were blocked off to reduce the threat of car bombs, and those entering subjected to two

successive body checks. A reminder of how long Jordanians have lived without their parliament came from the normally razor sharp doorman at Amman's leading hotel, who was at a loss for directions on how to find it.

Altogether, 13 of those present had crossed from the occupied West Bank and some appeared to be enjoying flexing their political muscles again. Essentially provincial politicians, whose popular support has long been eroded by events, many looked bewildered at the blanket media coverage which the 40-minute session attracted.

Mr Edward Khamis, a bespectacled Palestinian landowner from the biblical town of Bethlehem, was, at the age of 51, one of the youngest and sprightliest deputies in the wood-paneled assembly building, complete with ornate chandeliers and occasional furniture in the style rudely referred to as "Louis Farouk".

"I have as much right to speak for the West Bank as does the Palestine Liberation Organization, because I have lived there for nearly 17 years of Israeli occupation", he explained. "I feel that there must be negotiations with Israel very soon. That is what most of us on the West Bank feel now, although we know Israel is not prepared to give anything away."

Although Western statesmen anxious for any straw in the wind of a possible breakthrough in the deadlocked peace process have emphasized the world significance of yesterday's session, whose interventions were interrupted by the hanging of a magnificent silver bell, the purely domestic aspects were also of importance.

Badly hit economically by the failure of fellow Arab states to meet the \$257m aid figure guaranteed annually by the 1978 Baghdad summit, Jordan has seen political frustrations grow in recent months. "The King hopes that east bank elections will provide the perfect opportunity for steam to be let off safely and democratically", explained one diplomat.

A question mark remains over how much of the self-censorship which characterizes the Jordanian press will be relaxed in advance of polling day. But Western observers agree that the Hashemite monarchy is stable enough now to loosen some of the strictures.

In the last resort, it was the potentially sweeping international implications rather than local politics (or rather, the lack of them) that dominated comment on the return of what was once one of the most respected parliaments in the Arab world.

Leading article, page 11

Printer has fingers and thumb sewn back

Peking (AP) - Chinese doctors have reattached eight fingers and a thumb to hands of a Chinese printing plant worker in a 30-hour operation, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday.

Many Chinese surgeons specialize in microsurgery, but the restoration of Wang Hongde's fingers at a Naval hospital in Qingdao on November 18 was described as a "rare success".

The report said Wang's fingers were severed when the machine he was operating at the Xinhua printing house in Dezhou City, 640 miles from Qingdao, malfunctioned.

He was taken to the Naval hospital by air and four teams of surgeons conducted simultaneous operations under four microscopes. The other thumb required suturing. Wang's wounds have healed and he is undergoing physical therapy.

Santiago rocked by explosions

Santiago (AP) - A series of explosions shook the Chilean capital at dawn yesterday, the most serious destroying 35 yards of railway line near the city centre.

The targets included banks and shopping centres and was the biggest and most coordinated wave of bombings yet seen here.

Unesco 'can do without US'

Barcelona (Reuters) - The head of Unesco has expressed regret at a US decision to withdraw from the organization, but said the move would not jeopardize its financing.

Mr Amadou Mahtar Mbow, Director-General of the United Nations body, told a press conference that Washington's decision was not so much a problem of financing, which could be solved, but rather a move which undermined the principle of universality.

Boxer dies

Akita, Japan (Reuters) - Isao Kimura, a 28-year-old Japanese professional boxer died of brain damage yesterday after being knocked out in a bout here on Saturday.

Hotel closed

Dar es Salaam (AFP) - The four-star Bwawani Hotel, the only tourist hotel of international reputation in Zanzibar, has been closed after the Government refused to renew the contract to its Indian operators. The 104-room hotel, built in 1974, was put under police guard.

Hughes eulogy

Hongkong - Mr Richard Hughes, former correspondent of The Times who died last week was cremated here after a requiem Mass at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. Mr Denis Bray, Secretary for Home Affairs, delivered a eulogy.

Seamen killed

Cape Town (AP) - Three merchant seamen died and three others suffered burns in an explosion on board the Brazilian-registered oil tanker Brazilian Splendour off Cape Town.

Tornado lost

Bonn (Reuters) - The West German Fleet Air Arm lost its second Tornado aircraft within five days when one of the £16m planes crashed off the Danish coast. The crew of two ejected safely.

Blaze arrests

Munich (Reuters) - Two Italians have been detained on suspicion of setting fire to a Munich night club, injuring eight people. A 22-year-old ex-convict and a 20-year-old unskilled worker, both from the island of Ischia, were arrested after a tip-off.

Talbot hopeful

Paris (Reuters) - The management of the troubled Talbot car plant in Poissy, near Paris, were preparing the factory for resumed production in advance of redundancy talks between unions, management and the Government. It was closed on Friday after two days of violent clashes.

Fewer refugees

Bangkok - Fewer Indochinese refugees were left in UN camps in South-East Asia at the end of 1981 than at any time since Vietnam invaded Cambodia more than five years ago. About 170,000 remain, mainly in Thailand.

Water hazard

Bulawayo (AFP) - A lizard cut off water to hundreds of residents in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second city. It became stuck in the recording mechanism of the reservoir, producing a false reading that it was nearly full and causing intake valves to close.

Bonn blast

Bonn (AP) - A home-made bomb exploded near the entrance to the South African Embassy here. Nobody was hurt.

The two worlds of Invincible

From David Watts

A puzzled frown passed over the face of Captain Nicholas Hill-Norton, the commander of HMS Invincible. "At first I thought they must be saying these things about some other ship".

He was responding to reports that 70 per cent of Invincible's crew were fed up with the ship's long Far East deployment and wanted to leave the Navy. "With 1,000 crew on board, all away from home for Christmas and New Year, there are bound to be pressures, but altogether everybody is having a jolly good time", he said.

"I have never seen such warm things written about a ship", the captain said, as the vessel settled down for repairs to one of its port propeller shaft bearings in the civilian dockyard at Sembawang.

"In fact, since we left, 21 men have applied to leave the Navy. During the previous month in Portsmouth, we had 17 or 18 applications to leave."

"Since we left, 15 people have decided to extend their terms or to stay on permanently so you could say that we have had a net loss of six out of a thousand", Captain Hill-Norton said.

Two sailors were not as sanguine. "Look," a Guardsie said, "there are two halves to this ship, the ward room and the real world. The ward room may be happy, but the real world isn't. I volunteered for eight months on her to see Japan and now we're not going."

His friend said: "She's a fine ship, but we've had a lot of mundane duties. There's been a lack of information. We never know what's going on and a lot of people want to go home."

The unfavourable changes in the ship's schedule have contributed to some of the frustrations, but there was no doubt about the men's pride in showing Australian friends over the vessel during the abortive attempt to repair the troublemaker bearing in Sydney.

The ship appears to have acquitted herself well in exercises with the US navy, as well as the Australians and New Zealanders.

"The Australians were jolly impressed," Captain Hill-Norton said. "It's all gone well. It's teamwork essentially, and we have got it all together with what is a new crew since the Falklands. We've had no failings of men or equipment and any shortcomings have been tactical."

Invincible will stay in Singapore until January 23 and then spend two months in the Far East. Details of its movements have not been announced.

Sacked Nato general 'open to blackmail'

Bonn (Reuters) - A West German general was dismissed from a top Nato post for national security reasons, Defence Ministry spokesman Colonel Jurgen Reichardt said yesterday.

He told a regular Government press conference that no other countries or foreign secrets were involved in the case of four-star General Guenter Kiessling, Nato's Deputy Supreme Commander in Europe, who was ordered to

Glemp fights on for dissidents

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Roman Catholic Church in Poland is continuing to press the Government to release imprisoned Solidarity leaders. But in the interests of international peace, it is making attempts to bridge differences on foreign policy, church sources said yesterday, in a analysis of last week's talks between Cardinal Jozef Glemp and General Wojciech Jaruzelski.

The five hours of talks between the Primate and the Polish leader brought no great advance on the issue of the jailed seven Solidarity leaders and the four members of KOR who are awaiting trials on charges of trying to overthrow the state.

The Primate's view, according to church advisers, is that the Government should be consistent: either it should release the leaders without conditions or it should bring them to trial.

The Government wants to avoid the political embarrassment of a show trial at a time when it is reaching national reconciliation. The only logical course, therefore, is that prisoners, who include Mr Jacek Kuron and Mr Lech Walesa's former deputy, Mr Andrzej Gwiazda, should be freed, the church says.

Meanwhile, General Jaruzelski had evidently hoped that the meeting with Cardinal Glemp would produce a commitment to calm the nation.

A hint of flexibility from East

Europe was given in an interview given by Professor Marian Dobrosielski, a Polish representative at the International Pugwash Conference. The professor, a former Under-Secretary at the Polish Foreign Ministry, proposed that from January 1, after the first phase of the deployment of the American missiles, any further siting of any nuclear weapons in the whole of Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals, should be frozen in order to prove good political will.

Although the professor said that he was speaking for himself, not the Polish Government, diplomats here think that this may be a sign that the east is about to propose a temporary freeze.

East Africans ready to repay their creditors

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda will soon call a meeting of creditors of the former East African Community, which collapsed in 1977, to seek approval of a share-out of the community's liabilities which run into millions of pounds.

Britain, the United States and the World Bank are among the creditors who have still to be repaid for loans granted to the community before its collapse.

Since a recent East African summit meeting, Kenya and Tanzania have agreed to accept joint responsibility for the outstanding debts, Uganda will not have to pay anything because it inherited the smallest share of the community's assets after the break-up.

The assets range from the telecommunications and airways systems to the harbours at Mombasa, Tanga and Dar-es-Salaam, plus houses, offices and other properties in all parts of East Africa.

Delegations from the three states have just ended a meeting in Arusha, northern Tanzania, to discuss the procedure for

Gairy to go back soon to Grenada

Washington (AFP) - Sir Eric

Gairy, Grenada's former Prime Minister, will return "shortly", but will not be a candidate in the elections, he said yesterday.

Sir Eric, who was overthrown in 1979, predicted the Grenada United Labour Party he once headed would get an overwhelming victory in the elections.

He said that, if the party won, it would request a continued American military presence and a British naval presence. The United States invaded Grenada last September after Maurice Bishop, who overthrew Sir Eric, was killed by left-wing dissidents.

Howe sees Middle East hope

Cairo (Reuters) - Sir Geoffrey

Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said after talks with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, yesterday that there were signs of hope for a settlement of the Middle East conflict.

After the hour-long meeting he said that he thought last month's visit to Cairo by Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, and yesterday's meeting of the recalled Jordanian Parliament could be significant events on the way to a settlement.

"I think there are some signs that give one some hope, but it would be foolish of me on my first visit here to suggest that I have found some golden key to the problem that worried people for a very long time."

Mr Hassan Ali, at a luncheon in honour of Sir Geoffrey, urged Britain and the European Community to support Mr Arafat, and called for an open dialogue between the participants in the peace process - Egypt, Israel, the United States and the PLO.

● RYADH: The Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon concluded talks yesterday which Saudi sources said had made progress towards ending the conflict in Lebanon (Reuters reports).

The sources said that Mr Abdul-Halim Khaddam of Syria, Mr Elie Salem of Lebanon, and Prince Saud al-Faisal of Saudi Arabia had

Accused Palestinian reveals identity

Albuquerque (AFP) - The man

accused of murdering the Palestinian moderate, Issam Sartawi, yesterday surprised the court here by revealing his identity. He said he was Muhammad Hussain Rachid, aged 22. He was born in Jerusalem, studied engineering and had no criminal record.

He was known to Portuguese police as Awar Yussi, aged 26, the name on a forged Moroccan passport he had when arrested on April 10, 1983.

He has been charged with the murder of Mr Sartawi, an assistant to Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, and the attempted murder of his secretary Mr Anwar Abu Eiseh, during the April meeting of the Socialist International at a hotel here.

Yesterday the court was due to hear a tape of an interview

First Asian appointed to Zimbabwe High Court

Harare (AP) - President

Canaan Banana of Zimbabwe appointed three new judges to the High Court yesterday. Two are white and the other is Asian.

The appointments of Mr Dudley Renolds, aged 53, who was chief magistrate, and Mr George Smith, aged 50, a former Cabinet secretary who was Secretary for Justice, bring the number of white High Court judges to six out of a total of 12. Of the five black judges, two are Ghanaians.

Mr Ahmed Ebrahim, aged 46, a Zimbabwe-born Indian, is the first Asian to be appointed a judge. He is a former Director of Public Prosecutions.

Policy-makers have said that such key posts will eventually go to blacks, but the judiciary is suffering from a shortage of suitably qualified officers.

The white-dominated bench has come under fire in the last year, particularly from the former Home Affairs Minister, Mr Herbert Ushewokunze.

At the swearing-in ceremony, the newly appointed Acting Chief Justice, Mr Enoch Dum-butshena, said that judicial officers should not be immune from criticism, but that false and malicious attacks on the judicial system and upon the administration of justice

THE ARTS

Television

A jewel indeed

It is unlikely, between now and April, that anything will disturb the reign of Granada's *The Jewel in the Crown* on our screens. After seeing three hours of it - the third hour to convince myself that seeing can be believing - I am convinced that Granada have gone about their task with rare sensibility and expertise.

Transferring a novel to film is always difficult. Film is something else. There is an inevitable loss; it has to be hoped that the loss will not be augmented by damage that the feel will come across. The opening novel of Paul Scott's *Raj Quartet* is particularly challenging, powerfully moving but complex in construction. Granada have judged the pitfalls and escaped them.

It began last night with *Crossing the River*, and continues tonight with *The Big Game*. Both episodes will be repeated by Channel 4 on Sunday. Thereafter *Jewel* night will be Tuesday with Channel 4 continuing Sunday repeats.

It opened with newsreel footage, a technique repeated to convey to those with memories distracted by time, or with no memory at all, that haunted Anglo-Indian relationship, under particular stress in 1942 when the Japanese banged on the doors of India, whose restive population, reaching for independence, was aware that the Raj was by no means necessarily able to keep the doors shut. That precarious, tremulous scene set, it moved into its examination of a most complex relationship.

There are a host of fascinating characters in this novel but last night we were concerned with the under the love of the English girl Daphne Manners for the Indian Hari Kumar, educated in England to be an alien at home, and the faithful interaction between them and the balaful policeman Ronald Merrick. The drama in this threecourse was intense but the direction was such that it was not allowed to eclipse the historic ambience drama between occupier and occupied.

Susan Woodbridge was Daphne, a galumphing girl, short-sighted, gawky and well-intentioned beyond the ken of most of her upper-middle-class kind. Miss Woodbridge played her with a touch of the Joyce Grenfell, an immensely moving performance that showed how dispensable glamour is to the pursuit of theatre. The scene in which Merrick proposed to the sound of "Fair de lune" was as memorable as anything I have seen.

I would give her the laurels, which is not to minimize the convincing malignity of Tim Pigott-Smith, all lope and jowls, as Merrick, the equally strong portrayal of Ali Malik as Hari Kumar, or the delightful Zohra Segal bashing away as Lady Chatterjee.

Now power is lost tonight and all power to Granada, the adapter Ken Taylor, and the joint directors Christopher Morahan and Jim O'Brien. The former is the overall producer of this demonstration that television can rise to an occasion.

But the BBC survives in the vineyard, too. BBC2's *Horizon* produced an ingenious documentary, a species I normally snuff at on Sir Cyril Burd, whose psychological prejudices about inherited intelligence, and the relationship between it and income, dominated British educational thought for so long, and pleased those who were disposed to believe it anyway. Five years after his death in 1971, his research was shown to be fictitious, a gigantic fraud.

Stephen David wrote it and Marten Freeth directed. It overlapped with the *Jewel*, which possibly loomed larger on your horizon. There is a replay on Sunday: worth watching.

Dennis Hackett

Galleries

Putting elitism in its place

L'Ultima Avanguardia
Palazzo Reale, Milan

A Study in Patronage
Fischer Fine Art

Do we really want art to be popular? Do we not, indeed, if some unexpected example of modern art suddenly proves able to tickle the fancy of the public at large, tend to assume that it must therefore be lesser art than we first thought - or, finally, a strain of unavowed elitism in us all? Such questions are unavoidably brought to mind by two current shows, a big and ambitious one in Milan and a small but in its own different way ambitious one in London.

L'Ultima Avanguardia, Arte Programmata e Cinetica 1953-1963, in the Palazzo Reale, Milan, until February 27, proposes no less than a reevaluation of the kinetic and Op art which seemed so strange and new and advanced in the later 1950s and has, one realizes, been very little from view since. Why has it so faded from view? Well, whether we care to admit it or not, even the loftiest of art is likely, short-term, to be affected to some extent by the same kind of superficial cycle of fashion that governs the height of a hemline or the music we dance to. In that context, one might admit, the art of the Fifties was bound to be pushed aside in the Sixties, and was bound also to be due for reevaluation now, when the Fifties in clothes and pop music are back with a vengeance.

But I doubt if it is quite that simple. Going round this beautifully laid out show, I found that irrelevant, or at least irrelevant, thoughts kept popping into my head. How suitable, I thought, even though this is an

international show, to be seeing it in Milan, as it reminds us at every turn of the genesis of that still much-prized "Italian style" in design (Antoniooni-style, more or less), which has given us so many modern-classic lamps and chairs, and which even the rude gestures of the Memphis group, introducing a hefty dollop of kitsch into classy and expensive furnishing, have not succeeded in displacing. Even less elevated associations also came to mind: the show includes, after all, what one might see as the technical prototypes for those horrible lamps with globules of oily, brightly coloured liquid constantly rising and falling in another brightly coloured liquid of a different density. Not to mention those slowly seeping illuminated waves. And often, faced with even the most impressive things in the show, the phrase "executive toy" springs unbidden to the lips.

In other words, the "last avant-garde" found popular favour with almost unparalleled speed and completeness. Of course, as the show points out, it did not all come out of the Futurists, the Constructivists and the Dada group in the early Twenties, already experimenting in that direction. And even today, presented in a gallery with one of Gabriele De Vecchi's fields of moving pins or Julio Le Parc's waterfall of transparent plastic rectangles, plastic rectangles, many might claim that they cannot understand this mad modern stuff. But the fact remains that, in a different context, they do, and they did, right from the early Sixties. They understand and like it so long as it is not presented as art.

If, for example, they had one of Enzo Mari's transparent plastic cubes or globes with eye-teasing patterns inside sitting on their executive desk, or come across one of Vasarely's many-layered glass optical abstrac-

tions dividing the bar from the first-class lounge in an airport, they would not turn a hair, because it would be fun or it would be decor, and anyway not to be consciously assessed as art. That does not necessarily make them think any the better of it when it is displayed in an art gallery. Nor, I think, should we have any lower opinion of it because it lends itself so readily to such uses. Acceptability to the unthinking majority does not necessarily preclude a more considered, conscious sort of appreciation. Unless - perish the thought - we would not be caught dead liking something that too many other people liked, just on principle. In any case, the Milan show, as well as being informative and, in certain respects, thought-provoking, is extremely elegant, stylish and even, dare one say it, pretty. It does make snobism and over-nice distinctions seem more than usually beside the point.

Similar questions are raised, in a rather different area, by *A Study in Patronage*, at Fischer Fine Art in London until January 20. It consists of commissioned paintings by two gallery artists, Brendan Neiland and Ben Johnson. The commissioners include Gillette, Sunway Blinds, British Rail and Etema, who make curtain walling and windows. And the subjects are generally either some product of the company or the building in which the company is housed. Now the relevance of Etema's products to Brendan Neiland is obvious, since most of his paintings for some years have been of reflections in windows, while it is entirely likely that a super-realist like Ben Johnson might, of his own accord, do an enormously enlarged, minutely detailed painting of a safety razor or of the way the shadows fall on a venetian blind. These days, if we saw any of these paintings hung in a gallery without comment, we would have no doubt about their being art.

The trouble, obviously, comes in



Ben Johnson: Twin Blade Pivoting Heads (1981)

the whole question of commissioning. Does that suddenly reduce artwork to the status of commercial art? Especially if the picture is used, as Etema have extensively done, in actual advertisements? Or is it, we have to ask ourselves, sheer snobbery that makes us see a well-done product-illustration for a commercial artist as an advertisement in a completely different light from that which gives a special aura to a painting on a gallery wall? I suspect there is no simple answer to such questions. One can point, of course, to technical differences, particularly of medium and of scale. The matter

fully makes the painting of this kind different from that of the other, however good. Either way, we may reasonably congratulate the commissioners of the Fischer paintings on their sagacity: after all, they get not only an expressive illustration of their product, but a painting of stature to have on their wall as well - and probably for less overall than a top-grade photographer might charge in similar circumstances. But that is to open a whole can of worms...

distinctions, based largely on what we choose to call things rather than what they essentially are, have perhaps outworn their usefulness? Either way, we may reasonably congratulate the commissioners of the Fischer paintings on their sagacity: after all, they get not only an expressive illustration of their product, but a painting of stature to have on their wall as well - and probably for less overall than a top-grade photographer might charge in similar circumstances. But that is to open a whole can of worms...

John Russell Taylor

Theatre

Innocent delights

RSC tour
Tiverton

The Royal Shakespeare Company, in the hangar-like sports hall of Tiverton School, took me and nearly 500 other adults and children worlds away from an exhilarating and enchanting *Midwinter Night's Dream*. After a three-year lapse and now aided by NatWest sponsorship, an RSC troupe is on the road again, touring leisure centres and schools in 22 places from Belfast to Barrow with the *Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet*, morning performances of Edward Bond's angry comic one-act *Derek* and children's workshop sessions.

These remote venues, all lacking a theatre, are enjoying performances as crisp and sharp as a Stratford first night. The *Dream*, Sheila Hancock's triumphant debut as an RSC director, opened jauntily with an overture by Bottom and friends on banjo, big drum, washboard and penny whistle, with Snout (George Raistrick), blowing on a kettle-spout and Quince (Robert Eddison), carpenter's pliers at his waist, conducting gravely. Priscilla Truett's lovely costumes are pre-1914 period: for the toffs, men's court tunics and ladies' walking dress in subtly harmonized pink, grey and mushroom.

Making a virtue of necessity, Theseus's domestic servants double as fairies, in weirdly distorted Edwardian dress, suggesting the flesh-and-blood stuff that dreams are made on and, thanks to Jean Newlove's choreography, wholly convincing. Sporting a yellow waistcoat, Bottom (Philip Jackson) was irrepressible and the last scene was predictably riotous. Mr Eddison sat on stage with his *Pyramus* prompt book, mouthing every line with touching devotion, until Lion (Jimmy Yull) suddenly went roaring berserk, crashed into the set and

was dragged off unconscious in an unidentifiable tangle involving Thisbe's draperies and Moonshine's dog.

Romeo and Juliet used the same set: Bob Crowley's single flat of big mirror squares now seemed like a massy stone wall and, hung with death-masks like a Roman family chapel, ominously recalled the victims of the vendetta who ensured its continuance. Burdened with a very full text, the production never quite took off but showed stimulating flashes of John Caird's questing intelligence.

The romantic scenes were mined for delicately absurd humour, linking them with those other star-crossed couples, Lysander/Hermia and even *Pyramus/Thisbe* - which suited Miss Rose's ebullient, determined little Juliet. Daniel Day-Lewis's Romeo had the looks of Giuliano de Medici and the ardour and wit he brought to a different lover's role in *Another Country*.

Roger Allam made a solid-looking Mercutio boiling with contempt for folly, nearer Jacques than Benedick - a fresh, logical but thoroughly unamiable reading. But there was one charm in Mr Eddison's Friar Laurence, and Polly James's Nurse, a smiling, motherly little person with a purring Irish brogue. Miss James also rehearsed the Tiverton toddlers for a final bonus - a five-minute *Snail White* that, like Bottom's play, was as irresistible as it was innocent.

Anthony Masters

Concerts

Shaking out the politeness

Ravel
Covent Garden

It was billed as "A Day of Ravel at the Royal Opera House" and it seemed like it. Lasting almost as long as *Götterdämmerung*, this marathon of chamber music and song was bound to leave too much of the flavour of acid drops, to be too bitny, too pretty.

Still, it was the kind of mad enterprise that any festival has the right and perhaps the duty to embark upon, and the Ravel/Varèse Festival went as far as possible in making a vast window of miscellaneous jewelery look like a concert programme. The only snag was that Ravel's perfection imposes standards of performance that are hard to sustain for six hours. Whatever else was going wrong, though, the beauty of the occasion could always be restored by Felicity Palmer, who arrived in three of the concert's long quarters, and in the process got through a fair proportion of Ravel's songs. Miss Palmer's combination of declamatory fervour and sensuality was very true to a certain aspect of Ravel, whose lyrical pronouncements are often forcefully expressed but distanced by a hint of the exotic.

Other things, though, were not there, like the irony, or the gentle touch needed for the Marot epigrams. To some extent this was a matter of volume. The Opera House is not the easiest place in which to give a song recital, but it does not require a universal forte sufficient to drown out expressive nuance and, also, very nearly, the casual modesty of John Constable's accompaniments.

Mr Constable was involved too in notable successes among the instrumental proceedings, playing four-handed music with Paul Crossley. There was also from the Medici a rudely physical account of the String Quartet which may have misfired in places but which shook the politeness out of the occasion and was cocky with it.

Paul Griffiths

John Percival

'Now it be the turnance'

John Drummond: remembrance

British and foreign companies kept out of London for last night's theatre bookable advance, and almost everyone now accepts the need to have ballet and other dance to more popular audiences.

Among other factors, Royal Ballet's larger company desperately needs more performances than Covent Garden can provide, if it is to develop its dancers properly and give more adequate selection of large potential repertoire. What brings me to my second reason for moderate optimism, however, is that the Royal Ballet has begun to drag itself out of its slump in its artistic fortunes.

More performances, more progress, but already the company has more good young dancers than for previous decades, is making better use of them, and is beginning to use new choreographers to are putting renewed emphasis on dance aspects of the theatrical spectacle. Theatrical aspects of the repertoire have become dominant. The specially hopeful signs are the appointment of David Bintley as resident choreographer to Sadler's Wells company, the use of Richard Alston as guest choreographer and the courageous decision to give

John Percival

Days of hope

to develop, all over the country and not just in London. The best example of what can be done to bring good, varied programmes to widening audiences, even within meagre budgets, is provided by the Scottish Ballet. Their example is one that other companies could profitably study - which will be easier once something is done about helping them be seen south of the border.

All the same, more money is not a panacea, and, if dance companies of all kinds (big and small), classic, modern or experimental, are to press their case successfully for essential funding, they must continually show that they are making best use of what they already have. With that in mind, it is alarming to look back on the past year's work.

Searching through my diary (more than 230 performances by 75 companies, groups or soloists) I can find little that was really memorable or exciting. The highlights of the year were two seasons by visiting companies, New York City Ballet and Twyla Tharp Dance. Except for their city of origin, they have probably only one thing in common: the enormous energy that goes into their work, both creating and performing.

Energy is not everything, but it has a great advantage: it costs nothing. As a generalization, American dancers work harder than British ones, and American choreographers push more intensively to develop and extend their abilities. They also take more risks. Daring and energy, added to the talent already available, could transform the British dance scene, and make the case unanswerable for giving our dancers more resources and a home of their own.

At least Sir William has given a public statement that "Now it must be dance" to be helped

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A green town far away

Come Ming come Mao
nothing lasts, but
somewhere, encased in
the endless concrete of
Peking, lie the roots
of China's presence

By Jan Morris

The airline magazine on CAAC Flight 1502, from Shanghai to Peking, was six months old and reported the self-criticism of a Chinese women's volleyball team defeated by the Americans in 1982: "They were desperate, with fiery eyes, whereas we were passive and vulnerable to attack." It was like flying in a dentist's waiting room, I thought. Also, the seats in the 707 seemed to be a job lot from older, dismembered aircraft, some of them reclining, some of them rigid. People smoked unrestrictedly in the non-smoking section, and our in-flight refreshment was a mug of lukewarm coffee brought by a less than winning stewardess. I was not surprised by all this. I was lucky, I knew, that there were no wicker chairs in the middle of the aisle to take care of overbooking, and at least we were not called upon to advance en masse upon reactionary hijackers, bombarding them with lemonade bottles.

The enigmas were mounting. Why, I wondered, were the Chinese modernizing themselves with such remarkable ineptitude? Did they not invent the wheelbarrow a thousand years before the West? Had they not, for that matter, split the atom and sent rockets into space? Were they not brilliantly quick on the uptake, acute of observation, subtle of inference? The broad-minded Deng Xiaoping is the leader of China these days, and he is dedicated to technical progress of any derivation. As he once said in a famous phrase, "What does it matter whether a cat is black or white, so long as it catches mice?" China stammers all over with innovation and technology from the West; yet the coffee's still cold on Flight 1502.

The bricklaying in contemporary China would shame a brickyard amateur in Arkansas. The architecture is ghastly. In the newest and grandest buildings, cement is cracked, taps don't work, escalators are out of order. RESPECT HYGIENE, proclaim the street posters, but the public lavatories are vile, and they had to put spittoons in the tombs of the Ming emperors. Western architects, I am told, often despair to find air conditioning connected to heating ducts or fire escapes mounted upside down.

Why? What happened to the skills and sensibilities that built the Great Wall, moulded the exquisite dragon caves, dug out the lovely lakes of *chinoserie*? Feudalism stifled them, the official spokesmen say. Isolation atrophied them, the historians maintain. Maoism suppressed them, say the pragmatists. Communism killed them, that's what, the tourists say knowingly. But perhaps it goes deeper than that: perhaps the Chinese, deprived of their ancient magics, observing that nothing lasts, come Ming, come Mao, have no faith in mere materialism and put no trust in efficiency. *Feng shui* ("wind and water"), the ancient Chinese geomancy that envisaged a mystic meaning to the form of everything, is banned from the People's Republic, and dear God it shows.

Never mind: with an incomprehensible splutter over the public-address system and a bit of a struggle getting tables to click back into their sockets, we landed safely enough in Peking.

The first thing that struck me about this prodigious capital, which commands the destinies of a quarter of the earth's inhabitants, was the nature of its light. It was a continental light, a light of steppes or prairies, and tinged with green. At first, I thought of it as metallic, but later it seemed to me more like concrete: arched in a vast bowl over the capital, a sky of greenish concrete!

And concrete, too, was the dominant substance of the city down below: stacks of concrete, yards of concrete, parks paved with concrete, their trees ignominiously sunk in sockets of soil, vast highways like concrete glaciers across of the city, and everywhere around the flat skyline the looming shapes of high-rise blocks, their grim squareness broken only by the outlines of cranes lifting final concrete slabs to their summits. No need for rice glue, I concluded, in Peking.

I was staying on the outskirts of the city, almost in the country. There, the concrete was interrupted often by fields of vegetables, and the traffic that passed in the morning was half-rural: mule carts all among the buses, juddering tractors sometimes. Most of the drivers looked half-dead with fatigue and the traffic itself seemed to



Tian An Men Square in Peking: utterly concrete, all columns and swollen symmetry

rumble by in monstrous exhaustion. I went one morning to the Lugou Bridge, which used to be the city limit beyond which foreigners were forbidden to travel, and standing there among its 282 sulphid lions, all different, above its rushing river, watched those red reinforcements labouring into the city.

Somewhere over there, I knew, was the source and fount of the Chinese presence - the Inner City of Peking, which is now Beijing, which was Kubli Khan's Dadu - the home of Deng Xiaoping, the home of Chairman Mao, the home of the Manchus, and the Ming and the Hans before them. I approached it warily. Like the supplicants of old China kept waiting for a year or two before being granted audience with the Son of Heaven, I hung around the gates, waiting for a summons.

If Shanghai a first felt unexpectedly familiar, Peking seemed almost unimaginably abroad. Everything was different here. The faces were different, the eyes were different, the manners were colder and more aloof. Though, as it happened, people were more attractively dressed than they had been in Shanghai - far more girls in skirts and blouses, even a few young men in suits and ties - still they were infinitely more alien to me. The children, their heads often shaved or close-clipped, their cheeks high, did not respond so blithely. A sort of grave and massive contemplation greeted me wherever I went, as though each pair of thoughtful eyes, nearly a billion Chinese people, Jilin to Yunnan, were inspecting me as I passed.

Beneath the great green sky, treading those interminable concrete pavements, I felt awfully far from home, and when I followed the immemorial tourist route and took a car to the Great Wall, up there on the sun-blazed masonry, looking out across those vast northern plains and purple mountains, I felt I was breaking some strange and lifelong dream. The wall has been reconstructed around Badaling Gate and is overrun then by tourists of all nationalities, sitting among the cars and buses below, having their pictures taken, riding the resident camel, eating little peaches and drinking Kekou Kete, "Tasty and Happy" - Coke, that is. It is easy to escape them, though. You make the fearfully steep ascent away from the gate toward the watchtower to the west.

Once at the tower, you find that beyond it, the wall is reconstructed no

further but degenerates instantly into crumbled stone and brickwork, rambling away over the undulating ridges with nobody there at all. I walked a long way along it, out into the empty countryside, all silent but for the wind, all lifeless but for the hairy caterpillars that crossed and recrossed the uneven stonework beneath my feet. But lo, when in the middle of nowhere I sat down upon the parapet to think about my rather lonely situation, out of that wilderness four or five wispy figures emerged, and opening paper bags and wrappings of sackcloth, asked if I wished to buy some antique bells or back scratchers. Yet again, China had topsy-turved me. I had fallen among old acquaintances, and when, one by one, they took turns looking through my binoculars, well, said I to myself, what's so strange about the Great Wall of China anyway?

Looked at from the East, Peking is not remote at all - only 100 miles from the sea, only three hours or so by air from Tokyo. It is only when you come to it out of the West, on, more pertinently, out of the Western sensibility, that it remains so romantically distant. On a Monday afternoon, I went down to the gigantic railway station, twin towered and green roofed (escalator out of order), to see the arrival of the Trans-Siberian Express from Moscow. This was a dramatic occasion. Hundreds of us had come to meet the train: for hours beforehand, we waited in the cavernous International Travellers' Waiting Room, and when the bell rang, the great doors opened and we burst on to the platform, an air of headiest expectancy prevailed. And there, slowly rounding the curve into the station, very, very grandly, appeared the Trans-Siberian.

With a triumphant blast of its whistle, it came majestically to Peking, the three engines sitting in their cab like a trio of admirals on a flagship bridge. The waiting people clapped and cheered and waved newspapers as the doors opened and, from Mongolia or Siberia, Omsk or Moscow itself, their travel-worn loved ones fell home into China. One coach was full of a Western travel group and these voyagers, as they emerged, glazed and haggard, on the platform, looking wonderingly around them, reminded me of the long-lost pilots returning to earth out of the spaceship in the closing sequences of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

There is not much left of old Peking, except for Protected Treasures. The city walls have been torn down, most of the fortress gates have vanished, the

clutter of medievalism that so entranced the old travellers has been swept away as though it never were. Across the face of the central city has been laid the cruel thoroughfare called Chang'an, down which the trolley buses trundle and the bikes chaotically swarm. Here and there, though, I felt a powerful tug of organic continuity in this city of 2000 years.

I felt it, for instance, at the summer palace of the last of the Manchus, which is now a public park but is still everyone's idea of a Chinese imperial retreat, with its pagodas and towering temples, its ornamental bridges among the water lilies, its myriad boats upon the limpid lake, its covered way, decorated with a thousand scenes of Chinese legend, from which it is said no pair of lovers can emerge unbetrothed, and its ridiculous marble paddle-steamer, forever moored beside the quay (the empress built the place with money intended for the reconstruction of the Chinese navy) and commissioned this nautical folly, they say, as a slap in the face of the outraged fleet.

I sensed the constancy of things when, lifting my head unawares as I walked up Qianmen Street, I saw the vast glowing shape of the Qianmen Gate blocking the thoroughfare in front, for all the world as though it were still the portentous gateway, as it used to be, into the Inner City beyond. I sensed it delectably beside the lonely, neglected pagoda of Balizhuang, where martins twittered about out on the western outskirts, at whose feet the women of the local commune worked, crouching in their straw hats among the beanpoles, chitter-chattering half-hidden, like so many swallows themselves. I felt it pungently in the traditional pharmacy called the Shared Benevolence Hall, founded in 1669, which is a treasure house of arcane specifics, stacked upon stacks of mysterious powders, brown bottles of roots and seeds, phials of restorative nectars, sea horses, antlers, extract of deer tail, heart of monkey.

In the early mornings, I used to go wandering through the *hutongs*, the crooked quarters of small courtyard houses that survive here and there off the huge new highways. A curious hush pervades these parts. No motor traffic goes along the alleyways, and high walls conceal the jammed yards. Only by peering through half-open gates can you glimpse the tangled, crowded life within, meshed in laundry and potted plants, here a man in no shirt eating porridge from a tin bowl, there an old

woman smoking her first cigarette of the day or a girl in spotless white blouse extracting her bicycle from the rubble. A faint haze of smoke hangs in the air, and from the public lavatory, smelling violently of mingled excrement and disinfectant, heavy breathing and a vigorous swishing of brooms show that some unprivileged comrade is fulfilling early-morning labour norms. Nobody ever took much notice of me wandering these quiet lanes as the sun came up; only a fairly hooded eye focused on me how and then, when a woman emerged to empty her slop down a drain or a bicycle bell chimed me out of the way.

And once, very early, I strayed over a bridge to a leafy path beside a moat. I was led there by a curious cacophony of shouts, singing and twanged instruments, and I found it to be the most hauntingly timeless place of all. It was a place of self-fulfilment. Resolutely facing a high stone rampart above the moat, like Jews at the Walling Wall, all along the path men and women were privately rehearsing their own particular accomplishments in the dawn. As we sang in the evening tub, so the people of Peking go to that wall. Here was a man, his face a few inches from the masonry, declaiming some heroic soliloquy. Here, a woman was practising an astonishing range of arpeggios, shrill soprano to resonant baritone. A splendid bass was singing a romantic ballad, a poet seemed to be trying out a lyric, an old man with a bicycle was plucking the strings of an antique lute. I thought of joining in, so universal did these impulses seem, sending "To be or not to be" reverberating down that wall, or perhaps reciting some of my own purple passages, but as a Foreign Guest, I restrained myself and just whistled my way home to breakfast.

I must have walked a hundred miles! And gropingly, I circled toward the center of things - to what the old Chinese would have called the center of all things. The measured and muffled restraint of this city was like a fog in the sunshine. Gentle and polite, its people kept me always wondering, and I missed the flash of underlife that gives most great cities their clarity. I missed scamps, drunks, whores, haggard and ticket-touts offering me seats - heaven forbid - for the Chinese opera.

How bored this quarter of the earth must be! Even the procreation of the urban Chinese is limited, if not by law, at least by powerful persuasion. They must not gamble, there is nowhere to dance, it is fable on a bike to a cinema, and if they turn the TV on, what do they get but documentaries, English lessons, historical dramas of suitable import or Chinese opera? Their one emotional release seems to be eating, which they do with a gusto in which all their passions are surely sublimated. The grander restaurants of Peking generally have two sections, one for bigwigs and foreigners, the other for the masses. Though the downstairs rooms are usually rough and ready, with linoleum tablecloths and creaky old electric fans, an equally riotous festivity attends them all.

No wonder the Chinese are such hypochondriacs. They live so strangely, I was coming to feel in a condition of such crossed uncertainty and brainwash, that psychotic illness must be rampant. I went to one restaurant devoted to the cult of Dietotherapy sponsored by another 300-year-old herb store, and was not surprised to find it prospering mightily. When I told the waiter I was suffering from headaches and general debility, he prescribed Sautéed Chicken with Fruit of Chinese Wolfberry, followed by Giant Prawns Steamed in Ginger. They worked: I walked out feeling terrific.

John Morris 1983

Tomorrow
A long walk round the
earth's bored quarter

moreover...
Miles Kington

The last live picture show

"Visit one of the last live strip-tease shows around!" says the sign in Brewer Street, Soho.

"Personally, I blame the video games," said old Mo Kahary. "They're staying at home to play Spice Invaders, or whatever it's called. They're too lazy to seek out live entertainment."

"Personally, I blame the violin menders and pasta-makers," said old Alf Deadwood. "All this area is being taken over by trendy craftsmen. Hand-made bicycles. Second-hand books. Graphic bloody artists."

"Do you know where the Sexy Pigalle used to be?" said Mo. "Know what they've got there now?"

"No," said Alf. "Something to do with silkscreens, I expect."

"A games shop," said Mo. "Chess, and snakes and ladders, and dominoes, all hand-carved by women with long hair and wholemeal clothes."

"Remember Sue the Snake Girl?" said Alf.

"No."

"She had an act based on snakes and ladders. She climbed up this ladder with a python called Stafford Cripps, and got it to take all her clothes off. Very classy, it was. She kept the act going for, oh, 10 years or more. She used to go on holiday when the python hibernated, or something, then come back. Anyway, one day the ladder collapsed under her and she broke a leg, and do you know what?"

"No," said Mo.

"That snake was so popular with the punters that next week it went on by itself. Got a great big round of applause. You don't get loyalty like that with people today. If people want to see a snake they stay home and watch David Attenborough with a bleeding boa constrictor on the telly. Rotten snakes, too. Did you ever see a boa constrictor taking David Attenborough's clothes off?"

"No," said Mo.

"Well, then," said Alf.

"They were sitting in the saloon bar of the Frog and Nickel, one of the last of the old Soho pubs. They sat here every day, having the same conversation. The next step was for Mo to blame Westminster Council."

"Personally, I blame Westminster. Cracking down on the dirty film places. Well, all right, but then we get it in the neck as well, and we were Art. Remember Mary the Amazing Model?"

"No," said Alf.

"She used to enact scenes from famous paintings, all nude of course. There was one called the Judgement of Paris I used to enjoy, where she did amazing things with apples. And the Death of Nelson."

"That's not a nude painting."

"It was the way she did it. 'Kiss me, Hardy!' she used to cry. That was the signal for the blackout."

"Culture, that's what it was, culture. Artistic. Lots of lads, down from the north, football game or something. It was the first time lots of them had seen a naked woman. They got a good introduction. Artistic. Something to remember."

"One day she did a painting called the Flight of Icarus. She broke her leg too."

"You had a lot of legs broken in your place, my old son."

"Yes, well, you've got to take risks in live art, haven't you? Do you remember Fifi the Flying French Girl?"

"Yes," said Alf. "I married her."

"Oh yes," said Mo. "So you did. Sorry." They both fell silent, thinking back to the great days of theatre. It was generally about this point that the conversation came full circle.

"Personally, I blame the video games," said Mo.

"Out," said the barman.

(From Tales of Old Soho, *Moreover Publications*, only £15 - all right, two quid to you, squire.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 244)

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FASHION

Suzy Menkes

Spinning a yarn

Knitting is now all on the surface with texture and unusual materials giving a new dimension to the stitches

The yarn is the thing to capture the attention of today's knitters. Unusual yarns, and especially combinations of different weights and textures, give a fresh dimension to the simplest hand-knitting. Instead of multi-patterns and complex stitchcraft, the fashion story is now focused on the surface.

Those spinning a yarn will congregate at Needlecraft '84, the exhibition later this month held for the trade only. The news for spring is the summer weights such as linen, silk and especially cotton. Major spinners such as Lister-Lee are promoting English-spun cottons, and designers Suzanne Russell of Rocco and Sandy Black have both gone into the yarn business using British spinners.

Fancy effects come from slub cotton and linens, from ribbons knitted in as a yarn, especially effective with frayed edges to give the fashionably ragged effect.

The yarn story is part of the designer-led boom in hand-knitting. Patricia Roberts was the first to turn her frustration at a lack of quality and colour choice to practical advantage. She now exports her yarns and has three London shops and a thriving mail order business. The more sophisticated hand-knitting market is the target of Yarnworks whose range of Lancashire-spun pure cotton in vibrant colours - five yarns and 30 patterns - goes on sale this spring. Sandy Black started with her own designer sweaters, developed a flourishing knit kit business and is now launching her cotton fizz - a textured yarn to be followed by angora and wool. Christian de la Falbe started last year to supply the yarn he uses for his designer sweaters to the public. His linen, cotton and pure silk are being launched at Needlecraft '84. (Shade cards are available with see to Studio Yarns, 97 Wakehurst Road, London SW11 6BZ).

Although the British spinners are pulling up their once sober socks, the French companies are very strong on fashion yarns. A cavern of colour and tactile treasures is now downstairs at Rie's Wools of Holborn in their Laines Anny Blatt shop. These upmarket yarns include feather-light mohairs, sensuous angora,

crunchy cottons and ribbon coordinated in colour to the summer yarns. Multi-textured sweaters in big simple shapes with all the interest in the yarns, worked into abstract patterns, are shown in the high fashion Anny Blatt booklets.

On the wild-side - and influenced by the African beat pulsating through next sum-

mer's fashions - is Pingouin's Raphia.

The Yorkshire-based firm of Sunbeam is coming out this spring with a machine-washable cotton in 12 colours. Sunbeam's high-fashion summer yarns, (in Harrods and major stores after the sales) include two fancy slubs in cotton, linen and acrylic. They also do 22 shades of Aran wool, including a high-fashion royal blue and black for those who want to knit up something warm for winter.

It isn't only the yarns which have changed. The selling of knitting to the public has been transformed by the new breed of craft-oriented retailers. At Yarncraft, 112a Westbourne Grove, W11, customers can stretch their skills, and choose from a selection of knitting and weaving books and equipment. This week Angela Lodge of Yarncraft launches the first of her own yarns - in black and white - which she intends to market in response to the craft user's need for natural yarns. "I believe very strongly in pure worsted or pure cotton for our creative knitters and weavers," she explains.

Laines Couture, 20 Bedford Street, Covent Garden WC2, have built up a loyal clientele who understand the business of stitchcraft and want to knit to an artistic standard. Craft-type yarn suppliers are springing up all across the country in a response to such consumers.

The big stores also are keen on high-fashion designs and interesting yarns. Dickens and Jones carry the best of the British spinners spiced with innovations such as rag ribbons. Harrods have a wide range of new cottons coming in for spring, including Pingouin's Tricotine and Sandy Black's kits.

The kit business has also spread across the country, often launched as a small mail order business by the very people who supply the yarns to the designers. Naturally Beautiful of Dent, Cumbria set up with a selection of kits in cotton, silk and wool (like the one photographed on this page). Some of the designs of the small kit companies seem to be very basic and I think that they will find strong competition from the revamped designs of the big knitwear companies.

Lister-Lee have produced a designers collection booklet for their Tahiti mohair range that comes in 35 shades, including a shocking pink and a magenta. Enu are presenting patterns that look like the editorial features that first introduced high fashion to home knitters. And the kids kit people will find Copley's *Wind in the Willows* sweaters hard to beat. You buy Toad, Ratty, Mole or Badger as a picture kit at £1.95 (the sweater wool is separate). Mail order from The Yarn Barn, Whitehouse, Westfield Lane, Idle, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD10 8PY - (postage and packaging 70p).

Right: Lattice-work cardigan by Patricia Roberts. Knit packs in cotton crepe/cotton £25.45, crepe/silk £43.45 white/grey, red/fuchsia, cream/beige. Available and January from Patricia Roberts, 31 James Street WC2, 7b Kensington Church Walk W8 and mail order (£1.98 p & p) from 60 Kensington Street SW1 only. Linen top £29.80, Fern Wright and Manson from Dickens & Jones. Trainers £23.50, flannels £29.50 from (fax) St Christopher's Place, W1.

Above left: Mohair and tweed cardigan by Sue Bradley for Eshman. Peach and China blue yarns (knitted double) up to 40in chest. Kit £39.95 from Eshman, 22 Veerage Gate, London W8, £1.75 p & p. Straight tweed skirt by Kay Cosserat.

Left: Yarnworks' new pure cotton, 14 colours £1.10 a 50 gm ball from Dickens and Jones mid February. Pattern and yarn approx. £18. Denim blue trousers by Touche £22.50 from next month from Midas.

Texture goes to the head

Hair styles today often say more about someone than clothes. Hairdressing is a sophisticated and innovative industry and mainstream looks change with the seasons.

If one of your resolutions for the new year is to update your image, be prepared to move away from the slick, neat head shapes to a softer, freer style.

This year will see the evolution of the bob, with hair moving forward onto the face. Texture is the most important trend, achieved by precision cutting of shorter and longer lengths. Trevor Sorbie's "chop" (picture below) reminds one of the *comp sauvage* but the silhouette is more sculptured. The hair is often section-permed for fullness. The effect can be created on longer hair, another fashion trend for men and women this year.

Style leaders Vidal Sassoon are on the same wave length



Trevor Sorbie's textured cut, brushed forward.

with their "Olympic" collection of softly textured, well-defined shapes.

Colour will be subtler for spring and summer, used to complement rather than contrast with the natural hair tone. Knightsbridge hairdresser Allan Soh, stylist to pop superstars such as Duran Duran, streaks in three of four colours along the length of the hair. Fiery orange and rich spicy shades have replaced the reds, says Carmel at Clifford Stafford. Joshua Galvin colour-contrasts with streaks and highlights.

Just as high fashion no longer dictates style in clothes, you can no longer recognize a decade by the hair style. Hair is going to all lengths. Michaeljohn has put the emphasis on easy-to-manage styles with a sense of movement. Smile, who opened the first unisex salon and have a new shop at 434 King's Road, SW10, adapt hair to the client's lifestyles. Their clients range from film stars to King's Road trendies.

Glamour is still important for the evening and Gregor Schumi showed a wide range of hair pieces at a recent Elida hair-spray show. Trevor Anthony at 64 Blandford Street are following the retro theme with 1960s-style tousled bobs and dressed long hair.

Glemby are using razor-cutting for a spiky, layered look. Ricci Burns is also using the razor for a wider look, and hair is often left longer on top and graduated through the sides and back.

Christine Paineil

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MAXWELL CROFT

The Fur Sale for Connoisseurs

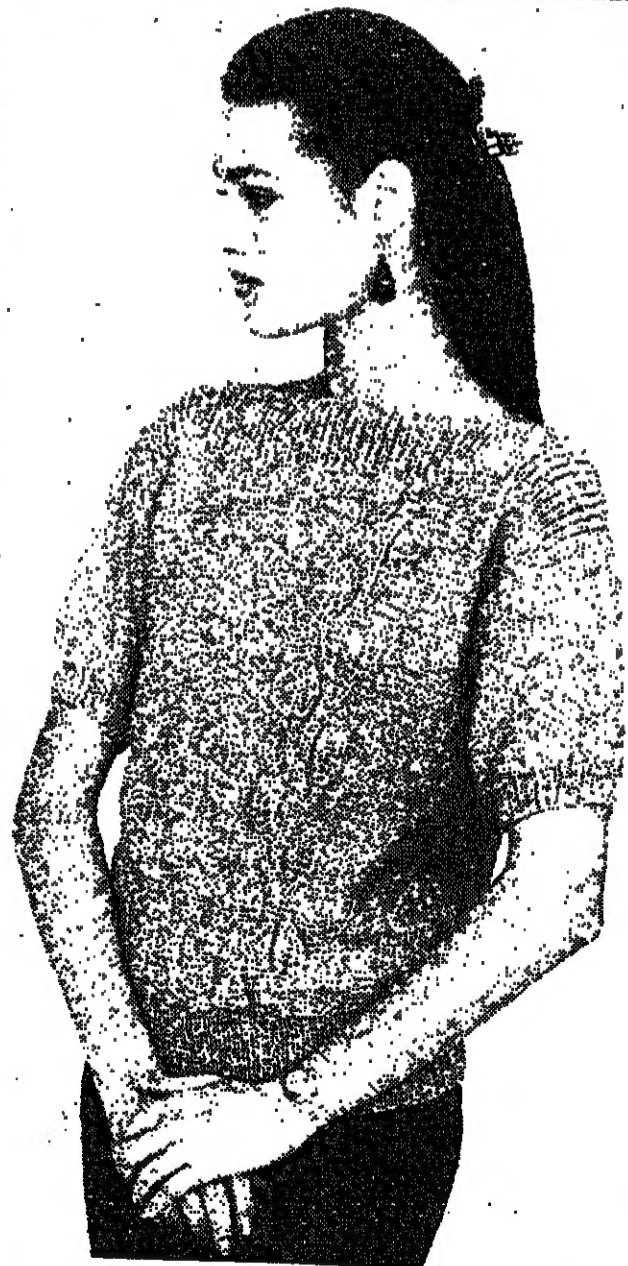
For those who are unable to discern the difference between good, bad and indifferent, there are a great many all the year round 'Bargain Reduction Fur Sales'.

The discerning woman who demands the finest quality at the keenest prices need go no further than to 105/106 New Bond Street.

The furs are magnificent - the prices tempting beyond words - but our winter sale is only on until 23rd January, so do come early.

MAXWELL CROFT

105/106 New Bond Street London W1
Tel: 01-629 6226



Multi-textured bathing sleeve sweater. Knitted in four yarns - kid mohair, angora, French navy, sage, gold, russet, pearl grey. Kit with instructions, yarn: small £25.50, medium £31.90 from Knitters of Dent, Main Street, Dent Sedburgh, Cumbria LA 10 5QL, post free. Colour leaflet of designs available for sale. Brick red wool skirt with castellated hem £90 by Zwei from Jones, 77 King's Road SW3.

Hair by VICKY at MOLTON BROWN using unspun wool kit £5.95 from 58 South Molton Street. Make-up by ELENA for MOLTON BROWN. Photographs by NICK BRIGGS

SNIPPETS

There's now so queer as folks' feet, hiplines or personal taste. If you want clothes made-to-measure or painted-to-order, my colleague Beryl Downing, the Shopping Editor, has collated an impressive selection of services.

The craft revival is the genius of her book: small businesses have restored individual service - even if it is now done on the end of a telephone from Cumbria.

Where Can I Get...? (Penguin £2.50) could find you an ivory handled umbrella in a Victorian print to match your wedding dress, or a Cheshire lady to make you up as Cleopatra for a fancy dress party. Twelve sections cover not just your body and clothes, but also

household goods and services, restoration and an invaluable list of specialist shops of collectors' items or craft materials. The selection is country-wide, for some of the most interesting services are far from the big cities. Conversely, Beryl has found unlikely crafts flourishing in cracks in the commercial walls of the metropolis.

They've got a little list, at Christmas in South Ken... of 1,500 costumes from the D'Oyley Carte wardrobe. Swashbuckling outfits from *The Pirates of Penzance*, embroidered kimonos from *The Mikado* and trunkline of opera etta nostalgia go under the hammer on January 24 at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

EDINA & ELENA WINTER

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OUR FANTASTIC

SALES

START ON
SATURDAY, 7TH
JANUARY

THE TIMES DIARY

Naked Ape, please note

A *Guardian* article on the bias against women in the Metropolitan Police mentions a Mr M. H. Sindell, chief executive of the Equal Opportunities Commission, and also refers to J. Hilton, the author of a study on women in the police service as "he". There's a bit of a bias against women in the article: both Marion Sindell and Jennifer Hilton are female.

Sizing up

The public inquiry into the proposed Sizewell nuclear power plant is one year old tomorrow and already the 5,000,000 sheets of written evidence weigh 23 tons and piled up would be taller than the Telecom Tower. The Central Electricity Generating Board has been using its computer to come up with some interesting facts about this massive year-old baby: for instance, the discovery that "day" had been the most commonly used word, uttered more than 80,000 times during the inquiry. These computer games could go on and on: the safety of the proposed plant and its impact on local surroundings have still to be considered.

Slippery syntax

A Channel 4 press release for Robin Cousins' new instructional series *Skateway* says: "In the first programme he enlists the aid of a family of penguins to show the right way to walk on ice and talks to a couple who have been skating for nearly half a century". In English or penguinese?

High dudgeon

A colleague's 15-year-old son, who has recently grown to 6ft 1½in, failed to convince British Rail of his age and had to pay the full London to Maidstone fare of £2.40 instead of the under-16 £1.60. The same week the Hayward Gallery made him pay £2 instead of the £1 admission price for under-16s. Joanna Drew, art director of the Arts Council, said she was very sorry the mistake occurred. Our colleague's son thinks he's a victim of heightism.

Pillow talk

Could this be the most undisputable publisher's blurb of all time? "To the tens of thousands who have stayed with or talked with or slept with Jim Haynes he is simply a legend." It's from Faber and describes Haynes' autobiography, which in spite of his very active-sounding life he was still fit enough to write.

Dogs of war

People living in the Maidstone area will sleep easier now that their council has earmarked £400 to counter a nuclear attack. The appointment of a part-time defence officer did not meet with everyone's approval: Liberal councillor Bob Black thought that the money would be better spent on a dog warden.

BARRY FANTONI



"Don't fuss so, Charles - we spend summer in Greece anyway"

Freeze-frame

The Royal Academy was planning an exhibition of Bill Brandt's photography when he died in December at the age of 79. With remarkable foresight, Brandt had insisted they change the name "An Eightieth Birthday Tribute", fearing that he might not live to see it. Now the Victoria & Albert Museum is planning a memorial tribute to Brandt, which will be held in the Henry Cole wing in March. The title is still undecided.

Still game

This Friday the 13th is the final day for offers for the beautifully restored Pheasantry in the King's Road. Five serious offers are already on the table, all from West End restaurants, so it is likely that the Pheasantry will remain an eating place, although perhaps not in its present tripartite form of brasserie, restaurant and cocktail bar. The last owners owe £1.2m to their backers, builders, bank and the inland Revenue.

Baa ta-ta

It cost Bradford Council £3,000 in legal fees in its court action last week to reduce the number of sheep allowed to graze on Ilkley Moor. The council felt that the 1,226 sheep were too many for the ecological good of the Moor and asked the High Court to order a substantial cut. A reduction of 20 was all it could manage - which works out at £150 per sheep.

PHS

Sir Alfred Dorman analyses the Kissinger report on Central America



Reagan boost, the objections come later

borders; the US keeps none on its land frontiers. Communist successes in Central America could change this.

That Dr Kissinger's diplomatic skills should be needed to persuade US political circles of these truths may itself give cause for alarm. It testifies to a new level of sympathy for militant communism on the part of many influential Americans. But this was Kissinger's starting point.

The report's stand on this matter cannot but help the Administration to shift the focus of argument from whether the present advance of communism constitutes a threat, to how the threat can best be averted. This will not necessarily ensure support for all steps taken so far, still less for those President Reagan is thought to be considering, particularly towards Nicaragua. But it should palpably strengthen his position.

Additional economic aid will be of major political importance to the Salvadoran economy, down 20 per cent because of the civil war and recession, and to the Hondurans, hitherto obliged to choose between guns and belated social progress.

There is naivety in the injunction to the countries concerned to eliminate poverty and inequality, when both British and US governments have laid heavy burdens on their economies to this end over past decades. Poverty and inequality seem to have actually grown over the period - possibly because of these measures.

Indeed, economic aid has shown itself to be a two-edged weapon. The prescriptions of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America, including the formation of a Central American Common Market, President Kennedy's Alliance For Progress, and bilateral aid through the Inter-American Development Bank are widely said to have wrought havoc on Latin American economies. Protectionism gave new impetus to endemic corruption, and generated shortages and inflation which raised social tensions, weakening democracy, paving the way for military regimes and left-wing guerrillas.

By contrast, President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative - opening US markets to a wide range of products from the region - is designed to help without generating side-effects. It has been warmly welcomed in Central America, by governments no less than by business circles. Unlike many forms of aid, it should be largely self-administering and automatically favour the most efficient producers. Unlike other forms of aid, it will not be at the expense of the US taxpayers but, in fact, will benefit them. Its actual implementation can expect opposition from protectionist lobbies in Congress. Could Dr Kissinger's mediation possibly help here?

The report's unexceptional proposals to link aid to improvements in human rights lend themselves to different interpretations. Insistence that foreign aid policies should give

high priority to human rights is not vitiated by the proviso that policies devoted to enhancing human rights should effect precisely this, by unrelenting pressures combined with help, rather than pull-pulling playing a part in bringing about political collapse calculated to usher in still worse regimes, as in Cuba and Nicaragua, and, before them, South Vietnam and China. Death squads and military dictatorships have emerged in reaction to guerrillas and terrorism in several Latin American states.

Death squads are an expression both of resistance to social change and of the frustration generated among sections of the public, particularly the armed forces and police, at terrorism, which they believe enjoys support, active or passive, from intellectuals and clerics. The death squads, in turn, alienate liberal opinion, the Church and the US Congress, thereby depriving governments like the Salvadorean of potential military, economic, political and moral support, needed to counter terrorism. This generates further frustration, and so on *ad infinitum*.

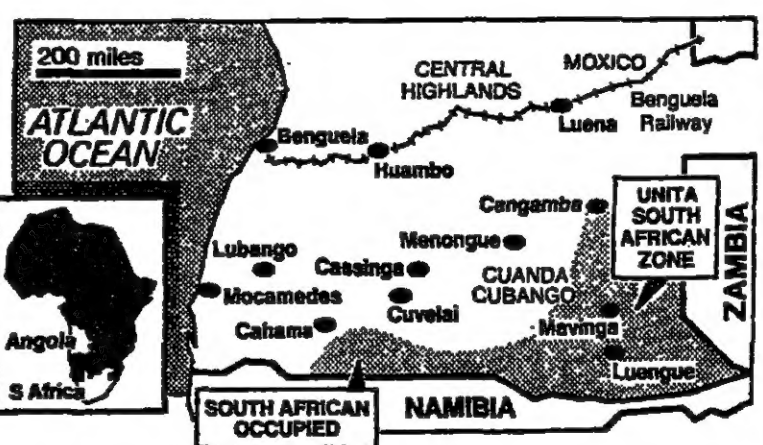
Political expediency dictates that US influences should be directed towards reversing this vicious circle. The knowledge that President Reagan enjoys enhanced political support in the US for his general policies towards Central America, by governments no less than by business circles, should help him with recalcitrant governments whose concept of winning the war first and attending to all other matters later has proved self-defeating. Success would still leave many vexed problems, which will certainly outlive President Reagan's second term, should he be re-elected. But the Kissinger consensus should help get him at least that far.

The author, Director of Studies at the Centre for Policy Studies, has recently returned from Central America.

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Rich Dowden finds a pattern behind the latest attack on Angola

Bota: talking softly and wielding a big stick



The South African of a ceasefire, and with Angola, issued at United Nations on December 15, as so often in the past, like a fired to announce their new. It not only signalled the 1st but the offer created the high which the world was supposed to give it.

According to Anglo-American sources, four columns of South African soldiers had been from their positions at 5 pm December 14.

The pattern of the attacks has been broadly the same since 1978. Pretoria begins to raise international peace and Namibian settlements, that an upbeat image is, it then secretly storms into it.

The next stage is a, usually from Lisbon, when international news agencies pick up information agency, that the Luanda is so distrustful of western press coverage that it not allow the agencies to operate in Angola.

The Angop reports usually late and couched in the revolutionary language of Angola's Marxist party, the MPLA, the Marxist media ignore the report until they are confirmed by Pretoria. This was the pattern of the case of Operation Moscow (June 1978), Shovelshell (June 1978), and the case of the 1981 and the 1981 November attacks into southern Angola.

The South African tried to play down these incursions. In the troops that in any, lost more they have given, one but briefing to foreign, one press the whole operation, lists during They present the

preemptive strike against Swapo guerrillas preparing to invade from Angola into Namibia and attack their troops. Angola also harbours the South African black nationalist movement, the African National Congress, and Pretoria perceives these movements as part of a communist-inspired "total onslaught" on white South Africa.

Some diplomatic sources suggest that the real target of the attacks was not the Swapo bases but the Angolan army's line of forts, equipped with Sam missiles, which run inland from Mocimboa through Lubango to Manongue. These were guarded by Cubans as well as Angolans and manned by Russian technicians.

Luanda hoped that this line would not be crossed by South African reconnaissance flights and supply runs for the South African-backed UNITA rebels in the central highlands.

The South Africans are said to have brought up their long range artillery and blasted the sites or sent in commando units to destroy them. Having successfully accomplished this they have withdrawn, not from Angolan territory but back into the enclave of southern Angola which they have held since 1981.

Where does this leave South Africa's support for UNITA? Jonas Savimbi's rebel movement was set back by the MPLA offensive against it in the central highlands in October and November; now the way is open for it to be resupplied by air from the South African bases in northern Namibia.

But this does not mean that UNITA will soon be able to march into Luanda. It has a strong base in the south-western, under the South African's umbrella, and it operates an efficient guerrilla operation in the

central highlands, where it has tribal support, and elsewhere. But Savimbi has admitted that UNITA cannot overthrow the MPLA government and is seeking to force Luanda to negotiate with him.

UNITA's own strength is magnified in the western media through its excellent public relations and its organization of free facility trips to the bush for western journalists.

Fred Bridgland of *The Scotsman*, who is writing a biography of Savimbi, has now been three times and remains impressed by UNITA's apparent advance across Angola.

Several diplomatic observers believe that the South Africans want weak government in Luanda rather than one of any particular political hue. Savimbi, whatever his own beliefs, may not enjoy the final support from the South Africans which is essential to take him into Luanda.

Another motive for the South African attacks, and Pretoria's support for the dissident movements in Mozambique, Lesotho and Zimbabwe, is simply the belief that "have to bash the blacks" to teach them a lesson. It is a sentiment still widely felt in South African military circles and, politically, Pretoria cannot afford to have strong, successful anti-South African states to the north of it. They offer too much encouragement to South Africa's own black population.

In the wider context the only significant change has been that the

Soviet Union has quietly let the South Africans know that it will not stand by and allow the MPLA to collapse.

The Russians have recently rearmaged Angola, not only with the Sam missiles but also with MIG 24 helicopter gunships, all paid for ironically by the dollars earned for the Angolans by American and South African companies which extract Angola's oil and diamonds.

The Russians themselves are unlikely to raise the stakes in the region. As one diplomatic observer said: "Mr Andropov doesn't come off his kidney machine every morning to ask how the total onslaught against South Africa is coming along."

With internal constitutional change within South Africa at the centre of Pretoria's political agenda, the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, is unlikely to upset his conservative electorate by handing over Namibia to Swapo. It is generally accepted that while Swapo acts only as an expensive military irritant to the occupying forces it would win an election if one were held now.

The only power capable of bringing about a Namibian settlement is the United States, but its plan to exchange Namibian independence for the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola looks further away than ever. With Lebanon and Central America on his plate every morning, Mr Reagan does not put southern Africa high on his agenda.

Highs and lows

New words for old, by Philip Howard

her books when she is not looking.

Let us consider marbles, brothers and sisters. There is no doubt that marbles have been a slang euphemism for the testicles since the early nineteenth century of pills. French marbles have been a synonym for syphilis for even longer. Dr Henry Bradley in the *OED* suggested (unpersuasively) that this is derived from *marbillon*, an obsolete French word for smallpox.

evidence that the marbles that one says somebody loses have nothing to do with such low matters, but come from higher up on the body. The phrase comes, like so much vivid new English, from North American slang. The earliest citation in the *OED* comes from a dictionary of American speech published in 1927: "Mentally deficient: there goes a man who doesn't have all his marbles."

Subsequent citations suggest that the metaphor refers to the little grey

cells, and the fragile matter up there, that perilous stuff which weighs upon the heart, rather than the testicles. There is a nice quotation from Woodhouse: "Do men who have got all their marbles go swimming in lakes with their clothes on?" It comes from *Cocktail Time*, as it happens, though it could come from any number of the Master's oeuvre, since men swimming in lakes with clothes on is a stock theme as common as the conventional epithets in Homer. The Woodhouse quotation confirms that marbles mean, in this metaphor, brains not balls. Jock Murray should continue to edit it out of his author's works; but on the grounds that it has become a cliché, not because it is improper.

Robin Cook

How can they call this benefit?

Mr Maguire sits opposite me with the staff room coffee table between us. His large, slow frame appears judiciously out of place as he heavily lowers it into the easy chair designed for brisk, young primary misses. On the plasterboard walls behind him a paper angel with wings of cottonwool still offers the staff tidings of great joy. He restlessly rubs his cloth bonnet up and down his thigh as he begins a wholly familiar preface. Never been to see an MP before. Always voted for us, but never troubled us. Worked all his life - except for the war and that was even harder work.

After 10 years I know not to hurry these preliminaries. This man has his pride and he is guilty and half-ashamed to be needing my help. It is for himself, not me, that he is reciting his credentials to respectability and dignity.

He should have retired five years ago, but the firm liked him so much they asked him to stay on. (Though not enough, I notice from his papers, to arrange a penny in superannuation for him.) Anyway, he thought he should give it up last year and spend more time with his wife. All was fine at first. The DHSS gave him £1.60 in supplementary pension on top of his state pension and arranged for him to pay no rent or rates.

Then he got a curt letter from the DHSS that brought his world crashing down. He produced it: two lines handwritten and the rest cyclostyled. It seems that he got a bit on top of his pension because he had worked those extra years and they had only just found out about it. Funny that, then paying him his pension and only just finding out how much it was. Anyway, as it said, "your income exceeds your supplementary benefit requirements", and the payments of £1.60 were to stop.

Not that it mattered all that much. He and his wife thought about it and reckoned they could get by without the £1.60. By that time I knew what comes next: a computerized notice from the Housing Department. Following information received from the DHSS it has cancelled his housing benefit. He now owes the full rent charge - all £88 monthly. That was October. He is now hopelessly in arrears.

He fumbles with his bonnet between both heavy hands. It is not for himself that he has come but because the wife is frightened that they might be evicted. By now he is avoiding my eye and I am avoiding his, so that we can both pretend I do not know he is weeping. After 40 years of providing for his wife he

cannot pay for the roof over her head. To a Scot of his generation it is a searing humiliation.

Mr Maguire did not know it and cannot understand it, but he is another victim of unified housing benefit. Its introduction last year has produced an administrative shambles on an epic scale unequalled since the creation of the welfare state. Since it was done on the cheap two and a half million households - roughly one in eight - ended up worse off after transfer from rent rebate or supplementary pension. Because its administration was thrust by government hastily into the arms of local authorities, whose staffing expenditure was being slashed by the same government, hundreds of thousands of tenants like Mr Maguire have experienced hardship and humiliation from wrongful assessments or intolerable delays. In Edinburgh the police had to be called to quell hundreds of private tenants in the front office of the Housing Department desperate to obtain the housing benefit they needed to avoid eviction by the landlord.

And now this government has the gall to propose a further major reduction in the level of the new housing benefit. From April, half a million households will lose their benefit entirely. For millions more, benefit will be cut. They include more than a million pensioners, Mr Maguire among them. A family of four with an income 25 per cent below average will have lost £5 in benefit over a single year.

Between now and April, I shall be able to get back for Mr Maguire enough housing benefit to cover most, possibly all, of his rent charge. In theory he should have been able to sort it out for himself, but the ministers who devise the theory appear to overlook why the poor remain poor, and don't earn whopping salaries as chartered accountants.

So I assure him I will see him right and we both leave the paper angel alone in the deserted staff room. I drive home to my family, who are waiting for me in the converted farmhouse we are buying with a mortgage. A mortgage on which an insane, unjust, and unfeeling system offers me more in tax relief every month than Mr Maguire's entire rent charge. And if on the way I had passed the minister who invented unified housing benefit, so help me, in my present mood I would have driven him down.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

Roger Scruton

Serendipity by the score

There are many reasons for visiting Prague; it is for example, one of the most beautiful of European cities, and its setting is unrivalled. However there is a special reason which - in an excess of New Year generosity - I have decided to disclose to the readers of *The Times*: hoping, nevertheless (like a man opening his best wine for the benefit of tasterellers), that it will leave you unmoved. The reason is the second-hand music shop in Myslíkova Street.

Behind a dirty window papered with dust-jackets and record sleeves, lies a single room, with an adjoining sanctum. The shelves that line this room are piled high with bound editions of the classics: pianos, sonatas, operas, some chamber music of every kind, lieder and folk song, even (just occasionally) the full score of a symphonic masterpiece. Anyone who wishes to relive the musical culture to which these shelves are so vivid a memorial, will have an additional reason for browsing in them, and for negotiating a purchase or two with the good-natured set of grey overalls that resides in the inner sanctum. For, in the centre of the left-hand wall, he will find arrangements for piano duet of most of the major classical symphonies.

In the age of mechanical reproduction the symphony, boomed out from the radio or gramophone into every living room, has decisively changed its character. It is no longer what it was for our ancestors, who played these works at home, sensing the musical logic of Mozart and Beethoven in their fingers as well as their ears. When they heard these symphonies in the concert hall, it was against the background of a musical understanding acquired at the keyboard, and with a profound sense of the distinction between harmony and colour. Now that every performance can be fixed forever on disc or tape, composers have ceased to observe that distinction, and a dimension of musical significance has been lost. Imagine a piano transcription of an orchestral extravaganza by Stockhausen!

It was in this shop that I came across the works of the world's most unjustly neglected composer - Zdeněk Fibich, disciple of Dvořák and Wagner, friend of the poet Vrchlický, and last of the true Czech romantics. A little volume of his pasties (*Náladý, Dujmý a Lominky*) fell from the bundle of music that I was struggling with; bending to retrieve it, my curiosity was aroused by the fact that the piece confronting me was numbered 368. The volume turned out to contain 30 items, in half the number of pages. Each piece

seemed packed with ideas, and none was longer than a few bars. Intrigued and sceptical, I bought the volume, imagining that it would sound like the conversation of a man who speaks only of difficult matters in dark images, and who in addition never finishes a sentence.

On the contrary. These pieces, abounding in modulations and transitions, justified their every move, in a style that is both melodic and logical. Like a Chopin prelude or a Beethoven bagatelle, a Fibich pesty comprises the exact and completed statement of a musical idea, and echoes in the mind like a well-turned epigram.

Discovering that Fibich was also the author of many orchestral and chamber works, I returned to the music shop in search of them. I found only a few dusty tomes, which I purchased in an equally sceptical frame of mind, now believing Fibich to be a miniaturist who could never sustain inspiration through an evening of drama. Wrong again. I began with his last opera, *Dargun*, written to a libretto by his beloved pupil and mistress Anetka Schulzová. Here was the melodic invention and harmonic clarity of the pasties, but drawn out with true Wagnerian breadth, and with a dramatic understanding hampered only by Miss Schulzová's grizzly libretto. Hastening to the record shop, I learned that there is no recorded version of *Dargun*, and indeed that only one opera of Fibich's is currently available - *Sárka*, in what I discovered to be an excellent version by the Brno opera.

Since purchasing the records, I have not ceased to ask myself why *Sárka* is never performed. Not only is it a work of unremitting musical craftsmanship, with beautiful melodies and sublime climaxes; it is also the only opera that goes to the heart of the great fantasy issue of our time - the issue of feminism. Miss Schulzová's libretto places on stage, in a series of hair-raising sado-masochistic images, the conflict of the sexes, exaggerated to the point of total war. Her heroine, a kind of masochistic version of Kleist's Penthésilée, leads a band of maidens to war for the sake of women's rights, and then betrays them for the sake of a man. She kills herself, at last, in a fit of intolerable remorse.

Fibich sustains all this with remarkable equanimity, in a firm musical language that rises to every climax, however melodramatic. And the sound of the distraught Miss Schulzová, bewailing the state of woman, while cradled in the fatherly arms of her protector, is extraordinarily moving. For there is something profoundly true in her despair, and something equally true in the warm melody with which Fibich seeks to console it. How much more stirring would this be than the cold posturing of Gounod's *Roméo and Juliet* for example, or the static tableaux of *Rusalka*.

Correction

Roger Scruton's column of December 20 said that Lord Denning did not read law at university. Lord Denning took both mathematics and law degrees at university.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Charter buys full stake in Rowe & Pitman

Rowe & Pitman, London's premier stockbrokers accelerated the link-ups taking place in the City yesterday when it announced two major partnerships. Insiders are already looking for another big deal shortly.

The brokers have sold a 29.9 per cent stake, the maximum permitted, to Charter Consolidated, the mining and industrial conglomerate, for £16.2m, and thus satisfactorily avoided the conflict-of-interest problems that have so dogged attempts by brokers to form partnerships with other financial institutions.

In its second deal it has formed an international dealing subsidiary with Akroyd & Smithers, one of London's two biggest jobbers, that will be capitalized at £17m. Akroyd last November announced that it had sold a 29.9 per cent stake to Mercury Securities, the owners of the merchant bank S.G. Warburg, for £41m.

And to complicate matters further, Akroyd and S.G. Warburg formally announced the creation of their own dealing firm in New York which will specialize in fixed interest, and other debt related stock.

Despite appearances, the three deals dovetail neatly and go some way to illustrate the logistics involved for member firms gearing-up for the future, once the Stock Exchange has completed its liberalization programme.

Rowe & Pitman is the institutions' favourite broker for equity and overseas securities trading. That means institutions managing £300 billion give Rowe & Pitman a respectable slice of their business.

Rowe & Pitman is an unlimited partnership; its profit and loss figures are secret. So the precise basis of the agreement was not disclosed, although both Mr Neil Clark, chief executive of Charter and Mr Peter Wilmot-Sitwell of Rowe confirmed that Charter will receive 29.9 per cent of Rowe's profits for the £16.2m and did review the broker's books. "It is what Charter considered us to be worth," Mr Wilmot-Sitwell was candid enough to confirm.

"We have spoken to people from all over the world," he added, "but the problem has always been one of a conflict-of-interest." With one of the strongest private client lists in the City, including Charter Consolidated, for the past 50 years, the broker could ill afford to find itself connected to a merchant bank involved in an aggressive action against a client company.

As senior partner, Mr Wilmot-Sitwell has long made public his view that Britain's brokers do not have enough capital to compete effectively with the American and Japanese giants so aggressively moving towards 24-hour international trading.

The potential of the changes taking place in London, widely expected to lead to multi-faceted financial service companies, is what proved to be the attraction for Charter Consolidated.

Charter has long been building up its own financial services in-house. It is already known as an active share-trader and is moving away from its less than brilliant mining finance business. It has a growing leasing operation, fund management for outside interests, offers investment advice and owns a 27 per cent interest in the bullion dealers and merchant bankers, Johnson Matthey.

Outside stakes in SE firms

June 1982	Security Pacific - Hoare Govett (£8m)
Nov 1982	RIT & Northern - Kitcat & Aitken (na)
Nov 1983	Citicorp - Vickers de Costa (£20m)
Nov 1983	Mercury Securities - Akroyd & Smithers (£41m)
Dec 1983	Prudential-Bache form own brokerage
Dec 1983	N.M. Rothschild - Smith Brothers (£8.5m)

Remaining prime targets
Phillips & Drew, Wedd Durlacher, Scrimgeour Kemp-Gee, Cazenove, Greenwell, de Zoete & Bevan (James Capel and Greaveson Grant have stated their intention of remaining independent)

The two firms settled the deal a few weeks ago, having been in informal discussions for some months. Neither side claims to have considered the natural integration of all those services under one umbrella. "We'll take it one step at a time," says Mr Clark. "We have concluded a number of basic understandings as we looked to what may evolve."

That does not include, apparently, an option for Charter to take up the remaining Rowe equity if and when the rules permit. Although Rowe was quick to say that Charter would in future be involved in consultations on any important deals.

Having gained what Mr Wilmot-Sitwell describes as a "comfortable foundation" now that their own substantial reserves have been added to "Rowe & Pitman went on to strengthen its one weak area internationally, the lack of jobbing expertise or market making."

That was particularly convenient for Akroyd & Smithers whose own deal with S.G. Warburg left it lacking a strong client list to trade for.

It is interesting that the deals most quickly done have been between banks and jobbers where the conflict of interest does not really occur and where the capital demands will be great. Institutions deal in the hundreds of thousands of shares.

The new international dealing subsidiary is to be jointly owned but reflects the disproportionate size of the two companies: Akroyd is contributing £11m and Rowe £6m. Both will channel all their international equity business through the new company which will be called, not surprisingly, Rowe & Pitman and Akroyd & Smithers.

The only two international centres where the two are not already represented are in Australia - where rivals Smith Brothers are experts - and Canada.

The deal is undoubtedly a good one for the jobbers, whose shares reflected the view by climbing 17p to 465p a share. It has formed links with two companies who are acknowledged as the experts in their field. One in equities and the other in bonds.

Reflecting that distinction, Akroyd announced the formation of a New York office in conjunction with S.G. Warburg to deal specifically in fixed interest and other debt related bonds. In London that will mean a leading force in the Eurobond market.

Akroyd must be congratulated for its risk-taking flair in acting as a catalyst for a combination which has great potential.

Texaco bids \$1.1 bn for Getty as Pennzoil move fails

By Philip Robinson and Bailey Morris

Texaco, America's third largest oil company, formally launched its record \$1.1 billion (£79.9 million) takeover bid for Getty Oil yesterday.

Getty's shares soared to a record \$418 on Wall Street as Texaco tendered for 35 per cent of the company's stock at \$125 a share. Earlier in the day Texaco had already announced it held contracts and an option to purchase 56.6 per cent of the \$8.5 billion Getty shares in issue.

Details of the proposed merger which would result in the biggest acquisition yet in the US, were unveiled over the weekend following several days of frantic negotiations in which Texaco was able to outbid its rival, Pennzoil, for control.

Completion of the offer will be delayed for 15 days in keeping with US anti-trust requirements. It was not clear

whether the US Justice Department or the Federal Trade Commission would challenge the offer although it is certain to be scrutinized.

If consummated, the merger between the two energy groups would create the world's second largest oil company, slightly ahead of Mobil but still well behind Exxon.

The speed with which Texaco engineered the takeover, agreed on Friday when it had been widely assumed that Pennzoil would complete a \$2.3 billion takeover of Getty.

Texaco's chairman and chief executive, Mr. Gary Family, said yesterday that it had agreed with Mr. Gordon Getty, founder of the Getty Oil Trust, which holds 40 per cent of the shares, that the two

form a new company and bid \$5.3 billion for Getty Oil.

Two days later it appeared Mr. Getty had changed his mind, and by Friday Texaco announced it had agreed to buy 11.8 per cent of Getty Oil from the J. Paul Getty Museum and Getty Trust, in addition to the 11.8 per cent museum stake.

It has also been granted an option to purchase up to 10 million additional shares (about 10 per cent) which have yet to be issued. The three agreements would effectively give Texaco 60 per cent of Getty Oil.

Meanwhile, Pennzoil said last night that it was preparing to issue two writs - one against

Texaco in Delaware and another in California against Getty.

One would seek to block the takeover on anti-trust grounds; the other would seek to force Getty to follow through on its agreement to sell Pennzoil 8 million shares at \$110 a share as part of a leveraged buyout.

Getty said yesterday that it would pursue its own legal action seeking a ruling that its agreement with Pennzoil was only preliminary and therefore non-binding.

Mr. J. Hugh Liedtke, the Pennzoil chairman, had already made a statement saying that he would raise very serious questions of national policy, if no restraint on such issues is forthcoming, small and large oil companies will shortly be swallowed by the giants.

Index rises to 800

The FT Index of 30 leading shares rose above 800 for the first time yesterday, but the pound fell to a record low against the US dollar.

This was the contrasting scene as optimism about Britain's economic outlook (and a wide array of weekend share tips) pushed the index to 801.9 points at the opening. Later prices eased, but then responded to late buying burst. The index closed at 800.0, a rise on the day of 5.7 points.

On the foreign exchange market, sterling fell to \$1.3910 but recovered to close at \$1.4050 - down 20 points. It remained firm against the other important currencies.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 800.0 up 5.7
FT All Share: 837.7 up 0.23
Bargains: 20.04
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 101.37 up 0.02
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest) 1290.31 up 3.67
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 1,005.3 up 71.36
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 337.46 up 27.90
Amsterdam: 174.1 down 1.0
Sydney: AO Index: 787.9 up 1.1
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1063.6 up 0.9
Brussels: General Index: 137.83 down 0.17
Paris: CAC Index: 163.7 up 2.2
Zurich: SKA General Index: 321.90 up 0.40

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4050 down 20pts
Index 81.7 unchanged
DM 3.9650 up 0.01
FF 12.09 up 0.0325
Yen 327 down 0.50
Dollar Index 132.0 up 0.7
DM 2.8300 up 0.0215

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4005
Dollar DM 2.8300
ECU 0.571088
SDR 0.736389

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates

Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9 1/8-9 1/2

Euro-currency rates

3 month dollar 8 1/8-9 1/8
3 month DM 8 1/8-9 1/8
3 month FF 13 1/8-13 1/2

US rates

Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 10 1/8-10 1/2

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce)

am \$364.25 pm \$365.25
close \$366.50-367.25 (\$261.75-262.25)

New York (latest)

\$365.80
Kruggerand (per cent)
\$377.50-379 (\$269-270.75)
Sovereigns (new)
\$85.75-86.75 (\$261-262)
Excludes VAT

UK to sign fast breeder reactor pact

By Jonathan Davies, Financial Correspondent

Britain will today formally sign a deal with five European countries committing it to joint development of fast breeder nuclear reactor technology.

The deal will be signed in Paris by Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy. The other signatories will be France, the acknowledged leader of fast breeder technology in Europe, Italy, West Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands.

The agreement marks the end of Britain's long standing policy of seeking to develop an independent fast breeder capability in favour of what is now regarded as the more cost effective option of collaboration with other European countries.

The decision to seek international partners was taken by the Government after an extensive review of its fast breeder programme in 1982. Britain has had a prototype 250 megawatt fast breeder reactor in operation since the middle 1970s at Dounreay in Scotland.

The Government decided against proceeding with the development of an independent commercial fast breeder reactor, which could have cost up to £2 billion, in favour of the joint European development of a commercial reactor.

Today's deal, which was foreshadowed four months ago in a Government announcement, will give Britain access to valuable information about France's pioneering 1200 MW SuperPhenix fast breeder reactor near Lyons.

In return, the European countries will have access to the experience gained by Britain with its Dounreay prototype, and the design work it has done for a possible full-scale reactor. Britain is the world leader in fast breeder fuel cycle technology.

Today's announcement is also expected to reveal more details about what part Britain will now play in the two further large-scale fast breeder reactors - one in France, one in Germany - which are planned to follow the first SuperPhenix plant, believed to be the largest of its kind in the world.

Announcing the decision to join the European fast breeder "club" in September, Mr Walker said that this would give Britain both economic and technical benefits. Future collaboration with the United States or Japan has not been ruled out.

Fast breeder reactors are likely one day to replace conventional thermal nuclear power stations. They are fuelled by plutonium rather than uranium.



Top jobs: Basil Collins, chairman and John Greeniaus, chief executive

Nabisco head confirmed

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Basil Collins' appointment as chairman of Nabisco Brands has been confirmed. He is the former deputy chairman and chief executive of Cadbury Schweppes.

Mr John Greeniaus, who was appointed Nabisco's deputy chairman last September, will become the company's chief executive.



Top jobs: Basil Collins, chairman and John Greeniaus, chief executive

Whitbread pays £18m for Lornho off licence

By Philip Robinson

Whitbread yesterday became Britain's third largest off licence owner. It has agreed to pay £18m to buy 325 shops in the North and Midlands from Lornho, the international trading group. The shops are operated by T. F. Ashe & Nephew.

Whitbread also takes over eight small beer and soft drink packaging companies as part of the deal. Lornho will receive payment in two stages - £15m now and £3m next year.

The sale will give Whitbread, which operates the Thresher chain of off licences mainly in the South of England, a total of 730 off licences in England and Wales. This lifts its ranking in the off licence-owning league from fifth to third behind Bass and Allied Lyons.

A spokesman for Whitbread said: "We approached Lornho to buy the chain about months ago because we wanted to increase the geographical spread of our off licence chain. A condition of the sale was that the other eight packaging companies be sold."

The sale is part of Lornho's policy, started last year, of selling anything that does not produce a satisfactory return. The group has good growth potential, Mr Alan Robinson, a Lornho director, said yesterday. The companies were all in profit, the financial year ending early 1983, T. F. Ashe & Nephew.

Wall Street forges ahead

New York (AP-Dow Jones)

Stocks broadened their gains in heavy trading early yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 3 1/2 points to 1,290 after showing some hesitation at the start. It picked up strength, however, and moved easily through the record closing high of 1,287.20 on November 29.

Advancing issues were nearly 3-to-2 ahead of declines.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italians buy 20% of Empire

Two big Italian retailing companies have taken a 20 per cent stake in Empire Stores, the Bradford mail order house. The two companies, Sefina and Gerco, were already small shareholders and will provide fashion garments and technological expertise to Empire. They are subscribing for 4.8 million new shares at 80p each which will raise £3.7m net and improve Empire's balance sheet. The creation of the new shares will also dilute the 30 per cent in Empire held by Great Universal Stores. Its stake will be reduced to just over 26 per cent but it will still be required to eventually cut it to less than 10 per cent by a monopolies ruling.

● Unilever said in Rotterdam yesterday that its United States subsidiary will take over the Shedd Margarine Group of Bette Foods of Chicago. Shedd, with headquarters in Detroit, produces margarine at seven sites in America. The group's sales for the present financial year will be more than \$200m (£143m).

● Mr Lewis Carter, who is making a £6.3m part bid for Maynards, the sweet and toy company, has attacked the basis of the strong asset backing claimed by the board in its defence document. He says in a letter to shareholders that property represents less than 25 per cent of the total assets.

● Tea prices soared again yesterday as dealers competed for supplies at the weekly London tea auction. A record price of £3.85 was paid for a kilo of Keenya Tea - 25p more than the highest price last week.

● The Tayside Enterprise Zone was launched yesterday by Secretary of State for Scotland Mr George Younger.

Lear Fan to cut 90 jobs

From Our Correspondent Belfast

Lear Fan, the company set up near Belfast to build carbon fibre business aircraft, is to pay off about one fifth of its workforce because of the delay in obtaining a US certificate of airworthiness.

The company announced yesterday that about 90 of the 500 workers would be made

redundant. However, the move to a more spacious plant at nearby Antrim, which the company is buying from British Enkalon, will go ahead.

Last year, much of the workforce spent several months on short time because of earlier development difficulties.

Murdoch wants Warner chiefs out

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The possibility of a proxy fight to remove the management of Warner Communications was mentioned by Mr Rupert Murdoch in Geneva yesterday when he addressed bankers and investment managers before floating a bond issue - a minimum of SwFr100m (£31.4m) - for his News Corporation.

"We feel very hardy put upon by what has happened there," he said. "We're extremely critical of that management. We're going to go on and our present plan is that if we're successful in the courts or before the regulatory authorities we will certainly have a proxy fight to remove that management."

News Corporation was not inclined to pick up \$25m-\$30m profit on its 7 per cent share of the company acquired in recent months, he said.

In his view, control of Warner had passed out of the hands of the ordinary shareholders without being referred to a stockholders' meeting, a procedure that he described as flouting the rules and intentions of the New York Stock Exchange.

gales where local management was "excellent" with "fine creative talent".

"We feel that if this deal with Chris-Craft goes through, the value of the shares - everybody's shares - will decline dramatically and we wish to prevent that," he said.

Mr Murdoch said News Corporation had believed for several years that in building a media company of world significance a big film studio would be a "magnificent asset". Though it was not "breaking its neck" to get hold of one.

It had thought it could not go wrong in buying Warner shares - about \$101m (£71m) worth - as a passive investor. It had talked to the company and explained its intentions. The company had approved and later asked the corporation to buy no more. Then Warner had given control to another company, Chris-Craft. So the corporation was pursuing the matter in the courts and with regulatory agencies.

"How it will come out I cannot tell you," he said. "I can only promise you it will make some rich lawyers a lot richer."

He regarded the situation of the management as disastrous. "There may be a business in software, in selling games to children, but the horrifying thing is they think they can compete with IBM and Hewlett-Packard in home computers or with Bell Laboratories in

satellite television company which supplies programmes, would probably lose money for some years yet, until programmes could be picked up directly in homes all over Europe. It could then take off, but was as yet "more of a seed than a major development."

"We have to prepare ourselves for possible challenges from the electronic media. We have to admit that in many areas there's a very thin line, or there's no line, between entertainment and news. Hence, we're looking forward to an expansion of our abilities and knowledge of the entertainment industry, one way or another," Mr Murdoch said.

In the US, the corporation had important newspaper developments on its hands. One of its major thrusts there would be the development of a magazine group. "The beauty of magazines is you don't own any printing presses," he said.

In Britain, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* were expanding. In the current financial year, *Times Newspapers* would lose no money, a very little. "We feel indeed it's going to be one of the greatest assets in the whole company," Mr Murdoch said.

"This time last year we were losing £5m at the end of six months. This year we're nicely in front. For the full year, I don't know but at least we'll break even, a considerable

The Wellcome Foundation Limited

Summary of the financial statements	1983 1982
Turnover	cm sm
Exports from the UK	674.4 592.5
Research and development	(127.6) 123.4
Administration	80.9 66.3
Profit before taxation	61.2 53.1
Taxation	23.3 18.0
Distributions to shareholders	14.0 13.0
Profit retained in the business	23.6 23.6
Capital expenditure	38.5 41.4
Shareholders' funds	367.4 326.2
Employees	18,645 18,561

Note: The results shown above are an abridged version of the audited financial statements which contain an unqualified audit report. They have not yet been delivered to the registrar of companies.

Research and Development

Expenditure on research and development during the year amounted to £81m, representing 12% of group turnover.

The Wellcome Foundation Limited is a pharmaceutical company with headquarters in the UK. It is a subsidiary of the Wellcome Group, which is controlled by the Wellcome Foundation. The company's research and development activities are carried out in the UK and abroad. The company's products are sold in the UK and abroad.

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The Wellcome Building, 181 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP. Tel: 01-387 4477

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People
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1. *Pharmaceutical industry*
 2. *Medical research*
 3. *Healthcare costs*
 4. *Insurance industry*
 5. *Government regulation*
 6. *Consumer advocacy*
 7. *Academic research*
 8. *Public health*
 9. *Medical ethics*
 10. *Healthcare reform*
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 12. *Medical research*
 13. *Healthcare costs*
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 16. *Consumer advocacy*
 17. *Academic research*
 18. *Public health*
 19. *Medical ethics*
 20. *Healthcare reform*

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1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the current situation and what needs to be changed.

2. The second step is to set goals. These should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART).

3. The third step is to develop a plan. This involves determining the steps needed to achieve the goals and assigning responsibilities.

4. The fourth step is to implement the plan. This involves putting the plan into action and monitoring progress.

5. The fifth step is to evaluate the results. This involves comparing the actual results with the goals and identifying areas for improvement.

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Michael Spitzer, chairman of the subcommittee on the direct and particular

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Dreaming of self discipline and less bureaucracy

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The field for the Masters tournament, which begins at Madison Square Garden, New York, today and continues until Sunday, includes the four men who won Grand Slam singles championships in 1933: Yan-ning, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, and Mats Wilander. During the past year all except Wilander were also fined or suspended, or both.

We used to regard champions as exemplars, not only in the quality of their play, but also in their response to the wider responsibilities of leadership. We can do that no longer. There are times when, paradoxically, it seems, we must look down on the men at the top.

This has nothing to do with the emotional stress of playing a game for all the upper levels of most professions. The man who cannot take the strain is simply suffering from a form of altitude sickness; he has climbed too high. In tennis winning championships is the ultimate test of character, as well as ability.

A tennis champion is a public entertainer and has the luck to be richly rewarded for playing a game. On both counts he has additional inducements to behave in an exemplary way. Yet we have a situation in which he put the paradox in another form too many successful in a sense, failures.

The 1983 rash of fines did the wealthy celebrities no harm and both McEnroe and Connors served periods of suspension when they were not planning to do anything in particular anyway. Not for the first time, it seemed that the leading men had an almost impregnable tolerance for fines and suspensions — which must therefore be regarded as inadequate substitutes for self-discipline.

The solution is simple and demands no more than administrative guts. Umpires, referees and grand prize supervisors merely have to enforce the rules, instantly. Tournament promoters are wary of appointing any umpire who has the confidence and moral courage to disqualify a crowd-pulling celebrity. Umpires can make mistakes, too, although these can be promptly corrected by referee or supervisor. But when an umpire knows his stuff and takes firm action, he should never have the rug yanked from under him by referee, supervisor, or anyone else.

Players make their money and their reputations by winning tournaments. They cannot win tournaments unless they win matches. They cannot win matches if they are disqualified — the ultimate sanction. The point penalty schedule is in many ways admirable, if it is properly applied. Warning a player for a first offence is unnecessary, because professionals should know the rules. But the rest of the system — a point penalty for one offence, a game penalty for the next, and then disqualification — could work effectively.

One correspondent suggests that the system is anomalous, rewarding the opponent rather than penalizing the offender. The argument is that a point should be deducted from the

offender's score rather than being added to the opponent's. This is interesting. But effects would be awkward. What it all boils down to is that competent and confident umpires should swiftly and firmly apply the rules, be sure knowledge that the referee back them up. The rules, if you are excessive and in cases petty. This may be a consequence of the fact that game has bred a form of bureaucracy.

The bureaucrats, based in New York, are the executive of the Men's International Tennis Council, which includes representatives of players, the tournaments, the International Tennis Federation (the collective voice of national associations), MIPTC has an itinerant staff of supervisors whose job it is to ensure that players and tournament officials honour the rules and regulations which men's tennis is encompassed.

The basic structure is good but to some extent the MIPTC have estranged themselves from the game by creating a corporate empire and clouds of verbiage.

The MIPTC have power and credibility from allegiance of the Association of Tennis Professionals and the current independent promoters of Championship Tennis. To run the grand prize circuit MIPTC have now assumed authority over men's professional tennis as a whole has the worrying possibility of implicit in any monopoly.

Let us consider, for example, the cost of putting on a prize tournament that offers players \$500,000 (£345,000 prize-money). In addition to prize-money and the administration, the tournament must also pay \$16 (£99,000) to the grand prize pool (from which circuit's more successful players benefit), \$15,000 to the (thus paying the players) as well as the players, \$10,000 to the MIPTC.

The bonus pool and payments seem to me unjustified and the MIPTC excessive. But tournament promoters cannot argue the MIPTC. For the time being it is the only show in town, monolithic structure, function effectively. On the whole I would prefer competition between more circuits loosely controlled by a neutral governing body. But as a pipe-smoker on a New York, Ivan Lendl, Czechoslovakia, will be an unprecedented third title when the Miami tournament opens today, however, will not be in on the first two days.

ORDER OF PLAY, first round: 1. McEnroe (USA) vs. Connors (USA), 2. Wilander (Sweden) vs. Yan-ning (China), 3. Connors (USA) vs. McEnroe (USA), 4. Wilander (Sweden) vs. Yan-ning (China), 5. Connors (USA) vs. McEnroe (USA), 6. Wilander (Sweden) vs. Yan-ning (China), 7. Connors (USA) vs. McEnroe (USA), 8. Wilander (Sweden) vs. Yan-ning (China), 9. Connors (USA) vs. McEnroe (USA), 10. Wilander (Sweden) vs. Yan-ning (China), 11. Connors (USA) vs. McEnroe (USA), 12. Wilander (Sweden) vs. Yan-ning (China), 13. Connors (USA) vs. McEnroe (USA), 14. Wilander (Sweden) vs. Yan-ning (China), 15. Connors (USA) vs. McEnroe (USA), 16. Wilander (Sweden) vs. Yan-ning (China), 17. Connors (USA) vs. McEnroe (USA), 18. Wilander (Sweden) vs. Yan-ning (China), 19. Connors (USA) vs. McEnroe (USA), 20. Wilander (Sweden) vs. Yan-ning (China), 21. Connors (USA) vs. McEnroe (USA), 22. Wilander (Sweden) vs. Yan-ning (China), 23. Connors (USA) vs. McEnroe (USA), 24. Wilander (Sweden) vs. Yan-ning (China), 25. 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BIRTHS

ATHERTON - On January 4th, 1984, a son, Matthew, born to Mrs. J. Atherton and Mr. P. Atherton. Weighing 7lb 10oz. Length 19 1/2 inches. Head 13 1/2 inches. Chest 13 1/2 inches. Arm 10 1/2 inches. Leg 11 1/2 inches. Foot 4 1/2 inches. Hand 3 1/2 inches. Middle finger 1 1/2 inches. Ring finger 1 1/2 inches. Little finger 1 1/2 inches. Thumb 1 1/2 inches. Pinky 1 1/2 inches. Palm 1 1/2 inches. Sole 1 1/2 inches. Heel 1 1/2 inches. Ankle 1 1/2 inches. Wrist 1 1/2 inches. Elbow 1 1/2 inches. Shoulder 1 1/2 inches. Neck 1 1/2 inches. Head circumference 18 1/2 inches. Chest circumference 18 1/2 inches. Arm circumference 10 1/2 inches. Leg circumference 11 1/2 inches. Foot circumference 4 1/2 inches. Hand circumference 3 1/2 inches. Middle finger circumference 1 1/2 inches. Ring finger circumference 1 1/2 inches. Little finger circumference 1 1/2 inches. Thumb circumference 1 1/2 inches. Pinky circumference 1 1/2 inches. Palm circumference 1 1/2 inches. Sole circumference 1 1/2 inches. Heel circumference 1 1/2 inches. Ankle circumference 1 1/2 inches. Wrist circumference 1 1/2 inches. Elbow circumference 1 1/2 inches. Shoulder circumference 1 1/2 inches. Neck circumference 1 1/2 inches.

DEATHS

NORTH LEWIS peacefully at her home in Brixton, on January 8th, 1984, at the age of 82, Mrs. North Lewis, nee Lewis, widow of the late Mr. North Lewis. She was born on January 10th, 1902, in Brixton, London. She was a member of the Church of England. She was a devoted wife, mother, and friend. She is survived by her daughter, Mrs. J. North Lewis, and her son, Mr. P. North Lewis. Her funeral will be held on January 10th, 1984, at 11.00 am, at St. Martin's Church, Brixton. Burial in the churchyard.

BIRTHDAYS

MCNALLY - On January 10th, 1984, the birthday of Mrs. J. McNally, nee McNally, widow of the late Mr. J. McNally. She was born on January 10th, 1902, in Brixton, London. She was a member of the Church of England. She was a devoted wife, mother, and friend. She is survived by her daughter, Mrs. J. McNally, and her son, Mr. P. McNally. Her funeral will be held on January 10th, 1984, at 11.00 am, at St. Martin's Church, Brixton. Burial in the churchyard.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.00 **Celestial AM.**
6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News from Debbie Rix at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 6.40 and 8.40; regional news at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; the day's television preview at 6.55; a review of the morning papers at 7.18 and 8.18; horoscopes at 8.35; Glynis Moran's star tips; column and Alison Mitchell's money matters at 8.50 and 9.00.

9.00 **Mind How You Go.** The second programme of the series introduced by Jimmy Savile on how to avoid road accidents (r). 9.10 **Training Dogs the Woodhouse Way.** In the penultimate programme of her series Mrs Woodhouse explains how to handle nervous dogs (r). 9.35 **Celestial.** 10.30 **Play School.** presented by Stuart McGugan (r). 10.55 **Celestial.**

12.30 **News After Noon.** 12.57 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 **Pebble** with one with comedian Les Dawson, **Nautilus** Wastan Boustany and singer Terence Brewer. 1.45 **Check-a-Block** (r).

2.00 **Film: Lady Luck** (1945) starring Lark Young as an inveterate gambler whose wife tries to cure him of the habit. Directed by Edwin L. Marin. 3.30 **Cartoons:** Bugs Bunny in *Falling Hare* and *Rabbit Punch*. 3.48 **Regional News.** 3.55 **Play School.** 4.24 **Headstart.** **Cartoons:** adventures of a British Boss Cat. 4.25 **Jackanory.** Valerie Whittington with part two of *Mouly's Orphan*.

4.35 **Playhouse: The Minstrel.** with Ben Sted, starring Simon Carter in the title role. 5.00 **John Craven's Newsround.** 5.05 **Grange Hill.** Episode three and new boy Jeremy Irvine can't resist showing off. 5.35 **What the Wisp** (r).

5.40 **50 Minutes** includes national news from Richard Whitmore at 5.40, **5.50** **News.** His guests are Omar Sharif, Roger Whittaker and 35-year-old recording artist, Natalie Casey.

7.10 **District Nurse.** Part one of a new 12-episode serial, set in a small Welsh town in the mid 1920s, an angel of death, now down to earth, Nerys Hughes (see Choice).

7.40 **No Place Like Home.** Comedy series about a couple whose adult children refuse to fly the nest and who, this evening, plan a new career for their mother - much to father's annoyance.

8.10 **Dallas.** It is the Ewings' annual barbecue and JP is put off his food by the not very surprising announcement of Miss Ellie's and Clayton's. Katherine, meanwhile, flies to Rome to try to solve the mystery of Charlie's father.

9.00 **News** with John Humphrys. 9.25 **Play: How Many Miles to Babylon?** by Jennifer Johnston and adapted for television by Derek Mahon. The story of a World War One infantry officer who reflects on his privileged childhood in Ireland and of his friendship with Jerry, a peasant Irish boy who also left the security of Irish country living for the carnage of Flanders. Directed by Maura Armstrong (r).

11.10 **News** headlines. 11.20 **European Figure Skating Championships** from Budapest. Highlights of the Pairs Short Programme and the Ladies' Short Programme. 11.50 **Weather.**

TV-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. News at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; sport at 6.35 and 7.35; **Alarm Call** at 6.40 and 8.45; exercises at 6.50 and 9.15; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.20; cartoon at 7.25; guest of the day from 7.40; pop news at 7.50; pop video at 7.55; inside Jim Bowen's house at 8.10; Alison Rice's holiday hints at 8.20; Gyles Brandstetter's video report at 8.35; and baby talk at 9.00.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 **Themes** news headlines followed by *Sesame Street*. 10.25 **The Poseidon Files.** Ancient stone temples are found on a remote Pacific island - but no other traces of habitation. 11.15 **Science International.** A brief look at the latest scientific research. 12.20 **Wild, Wild World of Animals.** The colourful and rare species of birds that are found in northern Australia and New Guinea. 11.45 **The Little Rascals** meet the Bear Shooters.

12.00 **Cockleshell Bay.** Adventures of the Cockle twins. For the very young. 12.10 **Rainbow.** Learning with puppets. 12.30 **The Sultans.**

1.00 **News** with Leonard Parkin. 1.20 **Themes** news. 1.30 **A Plus.** Kay Avila chairs a discussion on the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill. 2.00 **Crown Court.** Did a hacked employee burn down a toy factory?

2.30 **Snooker.** Terry Griffiths meets Colin Roscoe in the Lada Classic 1984. 3.30 **Miracles Take Longer.** Drama series in a Citizen's Advice Bureau.

4.00 **Cockleshell Bay.** A repeat of the programme shown at 12.00. 4.15 **Backlink.** 4.20 **On Safari** with Christopher Beggins and guests Buster Bloodvessel and Janice Long. 4.45 **CTV.** News, views and ideas for young people. 5.15 **Emmerdale Farm.**

5.45 **News.** 6.00 **Themes** news. 6.25 **Help!** by Taylor Gee with news of Headway - the Head Injuries Association. 6.35 **Crossroads.** Barbara Hunter's charm completely overwhelms Gary Corbett.

7.00 **Reporting London** introduced by Michael Barratt. Reporter Bill Wignore looks at the debutantes of 1984 and finds out how much money the girls' parents pay for the privilege. In addition, Graham Addicks examines the reasons for the lack of success in the London area of the government's youth training schemes for the unemployed.

7.35 **Film: Savage** (1972) starring Martin Landau, Susan Howard and Barbara Bain. A television journalist is offered compromising pictures of a judge who is also a candidate for the Supreme Court. When the young woman who offers the pictures is killed in mysterious circumstances the journalist sets out to investigate. Directed by Steven Spielberg.

9.00 **The Jewel in the Crown.** Part two and the rioting against the British continues in Mayapore. Daphne has not returned to her home and a concerned Ronald Merrick goes in search of her.

10.00 **News.** 10.30 **Snooker.** Highlights of the day's play in the Lada Classic 1984. 12.15 **Night Thoughts** from Paul Boateng.



Nerys Hughes as The District Nurse; BBC 1 7.10pm

BBC 2

9.00 **Celestial.** 9.35 **News** summary with subtitles. 9.40 **The Discovery of Animal Behaviour.** Part one of a six-part programme natural history series. Written by John Sparks and narrated by Andrew Sachs the series uses dramatic reconstruction to illustrate how, over the centuries, scientists and naturalists have come to understand animal behaviour. This programme presents the examples of Dr Sandro Lovati in Central Italy and Professor John Stour in California and then goes back to the nineteenth century to study the manuscript of the Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick II, on the Art of Hunting Wild Birds. Later, the programme examines the work of Christian monks in this field and also of the seventeenth century parson-naturalists of Britain (r).

6.30 **Cartoon Two.** I had a Hippopotamus. 6.40 **Tucker's Luck.** by Phil Richmond. Episode one of a nine-part drama about a group of out of work school leavers. Life is a bit dull for Tucker. Alan and Tommy but it lives up when Tommy makes a pass at a skin-head's girlfriend. Starring Tad Carly, Paul McCarthy and George Armstrong (r).

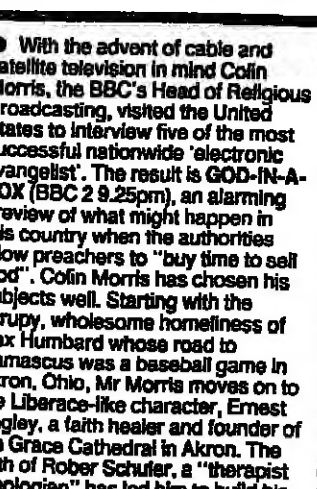
7.00 **Rockschool.** A follow-up programme to the series designed to help the hopeful rock musicians. Deirdre Barter (guitar), Henry Thomas (bass) and Geoff Nicholls (drums) answer the questions most often asked by the audience during the series.

7.30 **On Yer Bike!** by Barry Purchase. A play, first shown on Schools television, about a group of four young city dwellers who decide to take a spin in the country, with one of them in particular, Benny, looking forward to showing-off his new racing cycle to the "surprise". But the trip turns out to be not what they expected.

8.00 **Brass Tacks Reports.** In *Creeping the Fat*, reporter David Hanshaw looks at the £300 million industry that exists on peoples' fear of fat. 8.30 **A Kick up the Eighties.** An anarchic and satirical look at life from a talented and innovative team. Among the subjects tonight are some suggestions of what to do after the four-minute warning and a celebrity gourmet explains why he always shops at the local supermarket.

9.25 **God-in-a-Box.** Colin Morris talks to five of the most successful television evangelists in America. (see Choice).

10.40 **Newsnight.** The latest world and domestic news plus an extended look at one of the main stories of the day. Ends at 11.30.



Andreas Faulstich as the Reverend; BBC 2 7.10pm

CHANNEL 4

4.45 **Television Scramble.** Yesterday's winners face a new challenge from Sheridan Morley and his member of the public team. 5.15 **Years Ahead.** A magazine programme for the older viewer, presented by Brian Johnston. The programme includes items on what to do if you are taken off your doctor's patient list; the generation gap is explored by actor Christopher Biggins and his Aunt Viv; Brian Johnston talks to retired London bus driver, 75-year-old Eddie McGowan, who, since his retirement, has travelled some 300,000 miles around the world in his MG car.

6.00 **Bewitched.** Misunderstandings abound for poor Darn who believes his witch wife is expecting a baby. 6.30 **Country Cries?** The second of the eight programme series presented by Mervyn Longford that looks at the real problems behind the romantic image of the countryside. Tonight's topics are housing and the problems of finding somewhere to live in rural Britain.

7.00 **Channel Four News** includes a report from Stephen Phillips on the meeting between the National Trust and Department of the Environment on the future of Calke Abbey.

7.50 **Comment.** With a personal and a topical subject is Sir Richard Burch, President of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales.

8.00 **Brookside.** Paul Collins is warned at work that he must change his attitude. 8.30 **Take Six Cooks.** The second course is prepared by Richard Shepherd a director and head chef at London's Langan's Brasserie. He prepares sauces and soups.

9.00 **Film: The Options of Nine Elms** (1973) starring Peter Sellers. The first showing on British television of the drama comedy in which a reclusive, a former vaudeville artist, is brought out of his shell by two London waiters. Directed by Anthony Simmons.

11.05 **Eastern Eye.** A magazine programme for Britain's Asian communities, presented by Aziz Kurtha and Shyamal Patera. Music and sport are featured. The programme with offerings from singers Nazim Hassan, Sheila Chandra and pop group OHM. Ken Longstone talks about the GLC and the racist year.

CHOICE

Andreas Faulstich from where he peddles his prayers and gimmicky religious gimmicks. The most political of all is Jerry Fairwell, a confidante of President Reagan and a religious hawk if there ever was one. He is the founder of the Moral Majority, attempting to deliver the United States from the evils of Marx, Darwin and Freud. These preachers, plus the international Christian Broadcasting Network, may be seen on our satellite in the future - a thought that Mr Morris rightly describes as "horrendous".

Former Liver Bird Nerys Hughes plays the role in a new 12-part drama series **THE DISTRICT NURSE** (BBC 1 7.10). Set in a South Wales mining village during the mid-1920's

this first episode, at the observation of rural life, the nurse, Megan Rees, treated with suspicion "stranger from North Wales". Because of this the work hard to be accepted in a community in opposition to the established, stridently, stridently, played with delicious Deborah Marshfield. The local GP, Dr O'Connell, is reluctant to act on the warning of suspected "Tinkerton", the gypsy encampment on the village. A lively story-line remains to be seen when Wales's confidence in reality does warrant, as commissioning of another story.

Radio 4

6.00 **News** briefing. 6.10 **Farming** today from the Oxford Farming Conference. 6.30 **Today**, including 6.30, 6.30, 6.30 **News Summary.** 6.45 **Prayer** for the Day. 6.55, 7.55 **Weather.** 7.00, 8.00 **Today's Letters.** 7.30 **Our Letters.** 7.45 **Thought** for the Day.

8.45 **The Archers.** 7.20 **Medicine Now.** A regular health of medicine. 8.40 **World at 8.** 8.45 **The Argus.** 8.50 **Book of the Week.** 9.00 **Knitting** with Pam Dawson. 9.10 **Knitting and crocheted** for the Christmas season. 9.15 **Knitting** with Joy Gammon. 9.20 **From our own correspondents.**

10.30 **Morning Story: 'Gills'** by John P. Kelly. The reader is Kevin Flood. 10.45 **Daily Service.** 11.00 **News.** 11.10 **Travel.** Thirty-minute "Travel" series. 11.15 **Home** by Karl Barry. William Maxwell plays the left-wing politician who has been elected to the House of Commons when he forces his family to debate his wife's suggestion that they should buy their own council house. Co-starring, Sue Johnston and Anton Brookes (r).

11.30 **Nautilus.** With Derek King. 12.00 **You and Your World.** 12.05 **My World** with Karl Barry. Denis Norden, Dipsy Powell and Anton Brookes. Chaired by Michael O'Donoghue. 1.00 **The World at One.** 1.40 **The Archers.** 1.55 **Shipping.** 2.00 **World's Hour.** Today's items include Jean Snodgrass on how clothes can help to hinder the successful business woman. Plus the seventh instalment of *Over the Bridge*.

3.00 **Afternoon Theatre: Can You Hear My Heart?** by Trisha Fren. Maureen Beattie plays a woman stricken with multiple sclerosis. The play deals with the efforts to come to terms with the illness, and her contemplated suicide. Her relationship with her young daughter helps her to make an important decision. With David Heggie and Jane Reilly (r).

5.00 **Wales.** 12.57pm-1.00pm **News of Wales** headlines. 1.30-1.45 **News of Wales** headlines. 1.45-2.00 **News of Wales** headlines. 2.00-2.15 **News of Wales** headlines. 2.15-2.30 **News of Wales** headlines. 2.30-2.45 **News of Wales** headlines. 2.45-3.00 **News of Wales** headlines. 3.00-3.15 **News of Wales** headlines. 3.15-3.30 **News of Wales** headlines. 3.30-3.45 **News of Wales** headlines. 3.45-4.00 **News of Wales** headlines. 4.00-4.15 **News of Wales** headlines. 4.15-4.30 **News of Wales** headlines. 4.30-4.45 **News of Wales** headlines. 4.45-5.00 **News of Wales** headlines. 5.00-5.15 **News of Wales** headlines. 5.15-5.30 **News of Wales** headlines. 5.30-5.45 **News of Wales** headlines. 5.45-6.00 **News of Wales** headlines. 6.00-6.15 **News of Wales** headlines. 6.15-6.30 **News of Wales** headlines. 6.30-6.45 **News of Wales** headlines. 6.45-7.00 **News of Wales** headlines. 7.00-7.15 **News of Wales** headlines. 7.15-7.30 **News of Wales** headlines. 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